



PHOTO BY LORENA MARQUEZ

## BALL OF CONFUSION

### NO BREAD FOR THE BUDGET CIRCUSES IN THE PUBLIC ARENA

by Brian Doohan

When Rome under the later Emperors found occasional need to distract its citizens from the corruption and dissipations of its leaders, a policy of diversion was implemented and handed down through time as "bread and circuses". San Francisco's cupboard is bare - but in the absence of bread the strains of "Send In The Clowns" blare ever louder from parking meters, hydrants, emergency call boxes and overhead MUNI wires as summer draws near.

Perhaps the pivotal episode of disrespect for the Mission transpired when the boisterous crowd of supporters and detractors of fired Police Chief Richard Hongisto shouted down Mission residents testifying before the Police Commission on May 20th. Even the appearance of Mayor Jordan before a Town Hall meeting a week later couldn't shake a pervading sense of gloom and disrepair as the delayed budget process begins to grind forth this month.

#### NO BREAD...

Institutional chaos leached ever deeper into the Jordan regime when the Mayor abruptly fired his budget director shortly before the May 15th submission deadline, whereupon the proposal was postponed to June 1st, leaving only a few weeks for what is expected to be a contentious hearing and approval process. As the News had no inkling of the budget's contents as it went to press (or even if one would appear by June 1st) we can only conjecture as to its contents and none of this conjecture is encouraging.

A workshop of the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission (MTFM) on May 18th focused on the progress of its committees over 1991-92. Reports were issued and discussions held on City

services as diverse as education and recreation while the black cloud of record budget deficits and potentially unprecedented service cuts loomed over the proceedings. Although no City services appear likely to escape ruin, three areas of particular concern to the Mission appear specifically targeted:

**Health** - the potential closing of the Mt. Zion mental crisis clinic (which had the political effect, last year, of drawing Angela Alioto into the Mayor's race to split the liberal anti-Agnos vote with Hongisto, leading to Jordan's election) is back on the table. But even already, mental health services are shrinking, as anyone who walks Market or Mission Street well knows.

Planned cuts will most severely impact the Medically Indigent Adult Program which provides outpatient treatment through Mount Zion and San Francisco General in the Mission. "It would be a terrible blow to the poorer people including minorities and people with AIDS," said Dr. Mark Zussman of Mt. Zion who added that the cuts would be penny wise but pound foolish as people who were refused service would deteriorate until they had to be institutionalized at much greater cost.

Further, most of these people at risk to themselves and to others would drift to SFGH, which already has to send the mentally ill back to the streets around 20th and Potrero. The neighborhood, along with the patients and the budget, is the ultimate loser.

**Transportation** - public hearings held on May 26th and 28th on proposed MUNI fare increases drew an overwhelming number of opponents, but Public Utilities Commissioners recommended a fare hike

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## THEATER LIGHTS DIM ON 16th St.

### CITY POLICY, VIOLENCE JEOPARDIZE ARTS' COMMUNITY

by Richard Reineccius

#### KOMOTION KLOSED

"We've been operating here for five years without an incident. We're trying to be legit, and we're getting the bureaucratic run-around!" spoke an angry Matt Callahan, one of the collective operating Klub Komotion on 16th Street.

Last month's News chronicled a mid-March raid on Komotion by Mission Police, supposedly in response to an "Officer In Trouble" call. There was no officer in trouble. There was no vandalism happening. The police, we're told, admitted that night and in later conversations that the phone call was a "Bogus 911".

So, what was it all about? Next morning, Mission Police Captain Newlin reportedly called in his permits officer and told her to "Shut the place down," even though no citations had been issued. She, in turn, told Komotion to get a Fire Department permit for public assembly. The City's fire code clearly states no such permit is needed for any place holding less than 100 persons.

Then the delays began. After separate visits from two inspectors, who had very different stories on the requirements, the SFFD asked for the steep fee for the public assembly permit, then delayed for weeks a new inspection due to "manpower shortage" in their office. Finally, the third inspector found the place OK (with some minor lighting changes), said no permit was required and agreed to refund the money. The Police Department may require permits of its

own, but hasn't said so for sure. The permits officer had gone on vacation.

The frustrated Komotion staff are paying rent without being able to operate, and say they can't go on without income from the concerts. Call Komotion at 648-4923 for an update and, they hope, to catch some music.

**Editors' Note:** At press time, Komotion sources report they were given permission to reopen and will begin their usual eclectic brand of merriment in June.

#### EUREKA SPLITS

Across the street from Komotion, the home of the fully-permitted Eureka Theatre has been stripped to the bare walls - of seats, lights and all furnishings - nearly two years before the lease was up. The City, eight years ago, loaned the company a short ton of money to do major strengthening and renovation of the former body shop. The Eureka jumped at the cheap money, never thinking that, within a few years, they'd stall during their upward spiral.

The guarantee for the loan was the right to the lease, with the City promising the public and the other funders (who made grants for lights, seats and all the other goodies that a theatre needs) it would guarantee to keep the place open for performances if the Eureka should want out.

The building is privately owned, with a pricey market-rate lease. The City's loan, administered through the Mayor's Office of Housing, was written for more years than the lease. A month ago, when

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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BEST COSTUME BRAZILIAN 1ST PLACE, "FOGO NA ROUPA" 2ND PLACE, "TIE" "ESCOLA NOVA DE SAMBA" 2ND PLACE, "TIE" "HIJOS DE ORFEO" 3RD PLACE, "GINGA BRASIL" ♦ BEST VISUAL BRAZILIAN 1ST PLACE, "ESCOLA NOVA DE SAMBA" 2ND PLACE, "FOGO NA ROUPA" 3RD PLACE, "GINGA BRASIL" BEST MUSIC BRAZILIAN 1ST PLACE, "ESCOLA NOVA DE SAMBA" 2ND PLACE, "FOGO NA ROUPA" 3RD PLACE, "GINGA BRASIL" ♦ BEST DANCE BRAZILIAN 1ST PLACE, "HIJOS DE ORFEO" 2ND PLACE, "TIE" "ESCOLA NOVA DE SAMBA" 2ND PLACE, "TIE" "BIRDS OF PARADISE" 3RD PLACE, "FOGO NA ROUPA" CONGRATULATIONS ONE & ALL

Threepeat winner MAS MAKERS (top left) and its offspring ALL AH WE reached new levels of greatness this year. Mission artists triumphed w/ A WAKING DREAM's Radical Amazement Commendation & WISE FOOL PUPPET INTERVENTION taming Mission Street with a 1st in Visual. Chantmaster Doug Von Koss (bottom left) helps introduce a new archetype for the 21st century w/HIJOS de ORFEO. Artist Kip Ferris ascended to new heights in partnership w/ Carlos Aceituno's FOGO NA ROUPA...The virtue lies in the struggle not the prize: Bea Watson's MAS REVELLERS, Betho Filho's ORIXA BA BA (w/ FOGO sponsor Zania Olszewski) & Consecrau Damasceno's GINGA BRASIL will be back next year... Thanks to photographer's Joe Hakim plus Bruce Danziker & Shahim Eyari of MISSION ONE HOUR (2859 Mission--photos, videos & posters)...."In a Carnival Culture there are only two seasons: before & after Carnaval"-BATUCADA U Roger-821-4069....Congrats, Carmen De Arce on fine TV show which opened in 2 new markets. C.M.Collins

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# BALL OF CONFUSION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from 85 cents to \$1.00, taking effect as early as August 1st.

Things could get even worse when the Mayor and Supervisors begin next month's budget battle. Discussions have included a fare of as much as \$1.25, cutbacks or elimination of transfers (in effect, a fare increase to \$3.75 in the worst case) and "consolidation" (bureaucratese for "elimination") of lines including the 12-Folsom and 26-Valencia (which would require PUC approval).

"Mayor Jordan broke his promise of No New Taxes," accused Richard Becker, who noted "businesses and stores benefit from MUNI." Many speakers asked that the rich be made to pay their fair share. Others complained of top heavy management, equipment problems from wheelchair lifts to lingering roach spray and violent, stressed out drivers.

"There are no atheists on MUNI because every rider knows that Hell exists," summed up one speaker at the May 26th hearing.

Safety - perhaps the most revealing forecast of the City's future came when Jordan, at the May 27th meeting, said that "while other departments are being cut from 10 to 17%, the Police Department is being cut only 5%." Despite many complaints from residents, merchants and parents, the Mayor offered plenty of good cheer, but little substance.

"I'm not going to close a hospital to add more police officers," Jordan told the crowd. "I'm not going to close a library to add more police officers."

As he added that the California State budget would be the worst since 1939, priorities were re-evaluated. A group like Real Alternatives Program (RAP) that is holding the front line against youth gang violence now considers itself fortunate to have achieved a budgetary status quo and Jordan expresses hope that a "bootstrap" program for the homeless and a proposed youth curfew would sweep the Mission's problems off the streets.

## ... LOTSA CIRCUSES!

When MTFM representatives tried to make similar points at the May 20th hearing, some of the louder voices were able to penetrate, but it is unlikely that the Police Commissioners (perhaps justifiably concerned with their own safety) retained what transpired amidst the clashing of the cast of Terminator IV with that of Police Academy LVII.

Vice-chair Hilda Bernstein had to fight the crowd all the way to get in the point that the Mission leads the city in number of calls per police officer over the catealls, the chants of "Hongisto!" and the Arsenio-like whooping of the crowd.

The few Mission speakers treated respectfully were those who brought up citywide issues, such as the complaint by Andy Solow (who had pressed Supervisor Jim Gonzalez and Mayor Jordan to fund youth sports program at the MTFM conference) of lagging police dispatch service. "I believe everyone here has gotten a crook in their neck waiting on the phone calling 553-0123," he said.

Mission Captain Newlin tried to calm the crowd by noting that the old police station had been the site of a Sgt. Bilko episode in the 50s, then ticked off a number of familiar problems. "We have robberies, burglaries, auto boosting, homelessness, graffiti and sidewalk sales that hurt local merchants." He promised an increase in CPOP staffing and concluded by declaring "I have established a policy of zero tolerance for drinking and urinating in public."

Then the proceedings were turned over to allow "20 Mission residents", as the Commission ordered, to speak about conditions in the Mission.

At the head of the line was businessman and Mayoral candidate Cesar Ascarrunz who said "The police cannot do their job because someone is holding their hands."

That was as far as the Mission progressed. Next came an ex-Hongisto campaign volunteer who was shouted down when he complained at police who

beat up gays, followed by a Hongisto supporter who was also shouted down when he asked the Commission to reinstate the Chief.

For about an hour, friends and foes of Hongisto battled to be heard over the heckling, with comments relative to the Mission infrequent and hard to understand. Sometimes the noise was so loud that it was impossible to understand what the speaker was advocating. "I order my employee to fire the police (inaudible)



Part of May's hectic political activity was a march by parents and youths to demand an end to gang related violence and more jobs for Mission teens. The May 27th march ended up at the Mayor's town hall meeting. PHOTO BY: JEANNE HALLACY

attempted the assassination of a public servant (inaudible) all of us living in a concentration camp!" Another declared his support for Hongisto then tried to read a poem about the beating of "The King" by police in blue with bloodstained hands.

Those who didn't take a clearly partisan position were shouted down by both sides. When anti-Hongisto reinforcements arrived, they began shouting "Jail!" in the intervals between their opponents' cries of "Hongisto!"

Keith McHenry of Food Not Bombs, who has had the distinction of being arrested by many Chiefs and Mayors, urged the Commission to reinstate Hongisto "so we can have more entertainment." A man arrested in the May 8th sweep of the Safeway parking lot at Church and Market said he was locked up with "lots of non-demonstrators including students, non-English speaking people, the press and the manager of a Payless store". But another man with an uncanny resemblance to Johnny Carson's Floyd R. Turbo defended Hongisto as being "good for the blacks, the women and the ladies too!"

"This is a school house," one speaker observed. "And I wish the principal was here."

The Commission sat slack-jawed on the stage, seemingly either unable or unwilling to impose order and the situation deteriorated further when Hongisto himself swooped in, surrounded by an entourage that Elvis would have admired.

Unfortunately, Hongisto's handlers had so worked up the crowd that even his supporters shouted down their hero. Occasional snippets of speech echoed forth... "we have a Police Commission incapable of stopping people from blowing whistles... (inaudible)... a loyal servant of San Francisco for thirty years... (inaudible)... a fair hearing..."

The rest of what appeared to be a plea for his old job back was completely inaudible as seuffles broke out in the auditorium and dozens of riot-suited troops manifested, perhaps in response to

accounts that the departing ex-Chief had been bitten by someone described as "a Communist". Side entrances were sealed off by a wall of police but the front entrance was left unguarded as the (in)auditorium began to empty.

The Commission upheld their decision, releasing a transcript of Hongisto's midnight testimony. The previous week witnessed Jordan defend the Chief, abandon him, consider reappointing him Assessor and explore the possibility of making him the Parking Ticket Czar. By the time of the May 27th meeting, Jordan's mind was made up. "As you know, I had Richard

Hongisto, an excellent Police Chief. I also have five excellent Commissioners. I honor their decision. I told Richard Hongisto that if I were to give you another job in City government I would be giving you back your credibility but giving away my own."

For the sake of the Mission and other San Francisco neighborhoods, Jordan had no other choice. If Hongisto were reinstated he would have to continue his policy of mass arrests at demonstration in order to keep the respect of his men.

## ... AND NOW, THE LONG, HOT SUMMER

Poets damn all but the circus, but unlike City government, the circus provides an exit route for you to leave and go home. When the defecating elephants, the sideshow freaks, chimps, peanut vendors and clowns follow you home, cavorting outside your window until three in the morning, shouting, honking and spraying their bottles of seltzer, it's time to reach for the old shoes, dead cats and the trusty shotgun and run them off.

Some good news arose late in May. The Police Commission, according to MTFM's Hilda Bernstein, is planning another Mission meeting which will hopefully not be sidetracked by Hongopoids. And Mayor Jordan, who tried to put a positive spin on the future by showcasing civic groups like the Real Alternative Program, venues like youth sports and private sector efforts to find jobs for young people, announced that the Mission has been declared a Federal Enterprise Zone (EZ).

On the other hand, Rev. Jesse Jackson who met with Jordan on May 29th, termed the EZ concept "a hoax". And a recent Chronicle business section survey reported that the number of entry-level openings was shrinking. It appears that, as the recession slogs on, laid-off parents are having to compete with their children for the handful of \$5 and \$6/hour dead end jobs still to be found.

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# HASTA LA VISTA HONGISTO

Opinion by Victor Miller

On April 30th, in the wake of the Rodney King verdict, San Francisco suffered its worst episode of rioting and looting in decades. The sacking of Union Square and other areas of the downtown were devastating events which left the city shaken and on edge. What followed was not an especially proud chapter in San Francisco history.

On May 1st, Mayor Jordan declared a state of emergency which included a 9 PM curfew. A rally to protest the curfew at 24th and Mission, set for 7 PM the same day, was broken up by police before it could start. Potential demonstrators, shoppers and neighborhood residents were surrounded by cops at various locations and arrested for failure to disperse and illegal assembly. Some were held until after 9 PM and arrested for violating the curfew.

Once the crowd was controlled, the police had the option to arrest those they thought constituted a threat and let the rest go. That would have, as it has in past situations, served to maintain order. Instead, everybody was hauled off to jail, an intimidation tactic whose aim is suppression of freedom of expression, not public safety.

One woman returning from work was rounded up in the sweep, after being given conflicting directions by different cops. After about an hour, she managed to attract the attention of a Sergeant and tried to explain the situation. Another cop, looking on, told the Sergeant "She's with them. Just look in her purse... SHE'S GOT A NEWSPAPER!" It was the New Mission News.

Despite this irrefutable evidence of literacy, the cops finally let her go.

Sweeping an area in this manner means that some people are being jailed for what they might do, what the police think they are thinking, while others are carted off for what somebody next to them or, in this case, on the same block as them might be thinking. This is not a small violation of Constitutional guarantees.

Then-Chief of Police Richard Hongisto, in a press conference the following day, displayed a stun gun, a can of Mace, some rocks, bottles and rags, the usual litter associated with an inner-city street and tried to pass off this debris as weaponry with which anarchists were about to end civilization as he knew it.

Under the circumstances, Hongisto told the Chronicle "Freedom of speech is a small price to pay." The Chamber of Commerce, small businesses and even some progressives ate it up. Hongisto (and Jordan) had saved the city from the fate of L.A. which, at the time, was still afire.

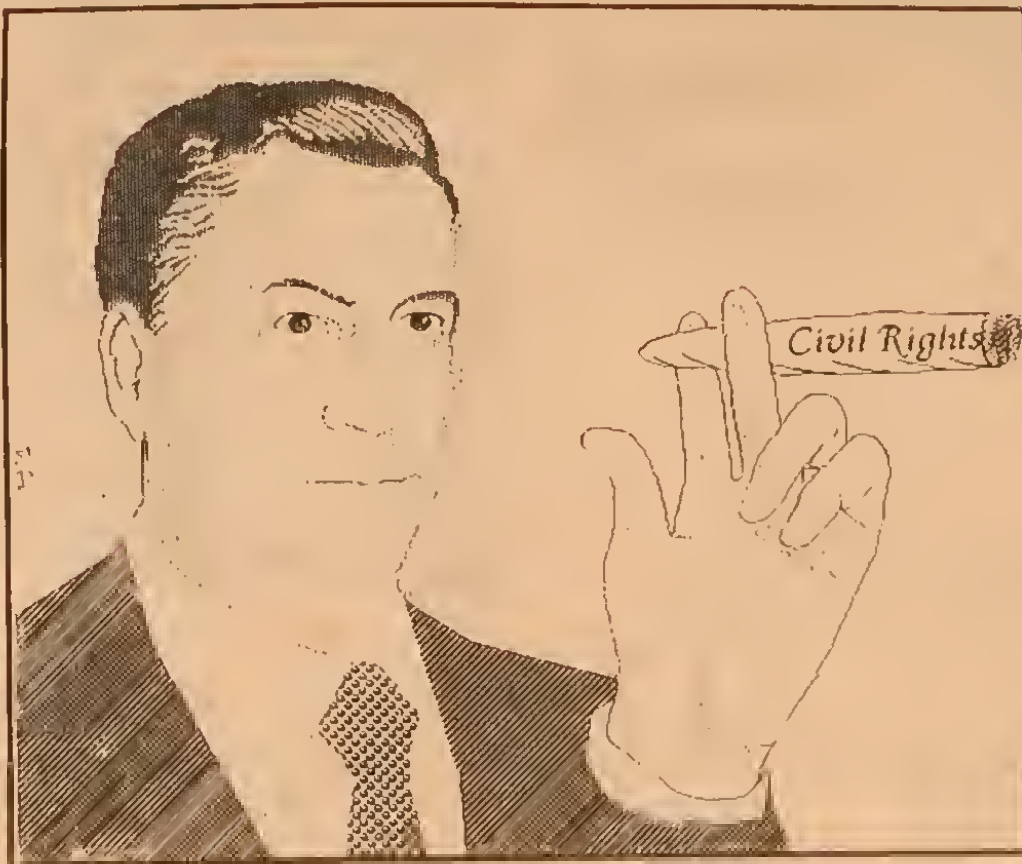
Few people asked how the cops had rounded up hundreds of aspiring rioters who, according to the Chief, were armed to the teeth with incendiary devices, bats, knives etc. The lack of physical conflict or injury should have led to the conclusion that the intent of the May 1st demonstrators was non violent. As the national media continued to spew out images of the L.A. apocalypse and gun sales zoomed, Hongisto floated the idea of a moratorium on demonstrations - because of their costliness.

This attempt at a kind of voluntary state of emergency to replace the one revoked by the Board of Supervisors went nowhere. Nonetheless, fear of what had happened in L.A. still colored public perception of San Francisco's increasingly bizarre Police Chief. As one Mission activist said, "if it was necessary, I think it was for the best. I don't mind if they violate the Constitution every 25 years or so." We didn't have to wait quite so long.

On May 8th, an almost carnival-like rally at Dolores Park, complete with jugglers, giant puppets and rap music attracted upwards of 1,500 people.

Police bullhorns blared out the approved route for the march that was to follow the rally with stern bilingual (Spanish/English) warnings that those

deviating from that route would be arrested. At one end of the park, negotiations between the police and march organizers were being mediated by Jean Harris of the Mayor's Office but, before the long, acrimonious debate over what the shortest route to Duboce Park could be finalized, the rally spilled out onto Dolores Street and headed north.



IT'S OK FOLKS, HE DIDN'T INHALE

After a noisy but uneventful sprint to the intersection of Church and Duboce, a few people in the head of the crowd were just approaching the park, where things would most likely have concluded without incident, when a double line of police suddenly blocked off Duboce Street. With Church Street also blocked by police, the marchers reversed direction and wound up at Market Street where still more waves of police encircled and, after many a long hour, arrested them.

A furious Jean Harris told reporters on the scene "the fucking cops deliberately set this up."

Later, police said that blocking the street was accidental, but the result was that some 600 people went to jail. Hongisto, who had failed earlier in the week to get a moratorium on demonstrations, was evidently willing to do it the hard way by force and intimidation. With astonishing ease, the Chief had changed the role of the police from one of keeping the peace to one of political repression.

The seizure of 2,000 copies of the Bay Times with the well-hung Hongo cover broke in the press the next Monday.

It was the final bombshell fired in Hongo's war on the First Amendment. It was weird to the point of being surreal but, nonetheless, consistent with the events of the previous week. Throwing 600 people into the slammer or throwing a few thousand newspapers into a basement are both acts intended to suppress unpopular opinion.

Hongisto gave the ludicrous explanation that he had intended to distribute the paper to members of the SFPD to show the troops what kind of shots the Chief has to take. This was not sellable to the Police Commission who fired Hongisto on May 14th.

The more plausible conclusion is that Hongo contacted a Police Officers' Association Vice President with a cowboy reputation for the purpose of removing an unflattering depiction of himself from public view. The Chief had gone badge-happy... the old boy network in the department, far from closing ranks behind the Outsider Chief, seized upon the opportunity he had so idiotically given them and hurried him along to his dismissal by the Commission.

Citizen Hongisto proved to be just as tough a cookie as Chief Hongisto. The former rabble rouser now turned rabble rouser, began milking every accessible

media minute to organize an insurrection at the May 20th Police Commission meeting being held at Horace Mann School, only a few dozen yards from the site of the May 1st mass arrests.

Hongoheads arrived early and in force, determined by dint of noise and number (mostly noise) to put the Great Arrestor into a pension-collecting position

People spit on each other, fights broke out and, had Hongisto's philosophy of pre-emptive strikes remained in effect, the whole lot would have been thrown in jail. Here at last was the gang of anarchists Hongisto had warned about.

The debate, if you can call it that, continued for almost two hours at the same deafening roar, but with deteriorating coherence.

Finally, fearless leader Hongisto himself, assisted by a phalanx of very serious looking cops, made his way to the mike. But if his aim was to deliver some spellbinding piece of oratory that would lead his agog followers to even higher state of orgiastic frenzy and thereby propel his return to Chiefdomry, Hongo was about to be disappointed.

Despite a spirited attempt the ex-chief was unable to be heard above the hue and cry that he himself had raised. The same flying wedge of cops now eased the now down-faced Hongisto out the side door to catcalls and choruses "of Run Dick, Run!" The Middle School Putsch was over.

The auditorium din dropped to lower than psychosis-inducing levels as the emotionally drained and sore of throat headed to the exits. Dick's new tool... mob rule... had failed to overthrow the Commissioners' decision, but his tactics were not entirely without effect for, at the following day's press conference, the Mayor dropped all support for his former Police Academy chum like a handful of nuclear waste.

In the three week reign of melodrama, the longstanding social injustices that should have commanded serious attention were ignored while the embarrassing, sometimes frightening spectacle of San Francisco's megalomaniac Chief of Police unfolded. As what many say will be a long, hot summer of civil unrest rapidly approaches, City government is only now beginning to shake off the effects of a 21 day case of hysterical paralysis, with the same severe urban problems just that much farther away from resolution.

At a time when unity and consensus should have been the prime concerns of the political process, dissension and chaos were triumphant.

Let's hope the stupidity is over. Hasta La Vista, Hongisto!

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# MISSION INSIDER



BY LISA HAMBURGER

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

What the heck is going on around here?

One day Jordan's supporter's want him recalled because he appoints Richard Hongisto as Police Chief. Forty-four days later, Jordan's "constituency" wants to recall him for having Hongisto fired. Oh, excuse me. The Police Commission fired Hongisto, not Jordan.

What's wrong with this picture is the same thing that keeps the Mission District in the shape its in and the nation in shambles. Its the old game of deception, create a new problem to divert attention from the real one.

I, for one, am incensed! Last month's Police Commission hearing, held in the Mission so that residents could speak about the pressing issues of our neighborhood, was a circus. And we were our own ring leaders. Do people behave like that at home, too?

Those on the side of the fallen Police Chief argued that businesses needed to be saved from "rampant looters."

The Hongisto supporters didn't seem to care or remember that just 6 months ago they vehemently opposed the man as a mayoral candidate, or that now they were wanting to recall the man they voted for instead.

On the other side of the aisle, people were equally obstinate that their constitutional rights were violated, either because they were illegally arrested, or because Hongisto allegedly ordered the theft of thousands of copies of the *SF Bay Times* or because the District Attorney stated that stealing free newspapers is not a crime.

Through it all, hardly anyone could hear anything being said to the Commission. People yelled over others who were testifying, without even regard to whose side the testimonial was for.

Everyone's right to hear the public hearing was violated by others.

As sad as it was to watch democracy thwarted by the people against...the people, nothing could have been more disappointing than to watch the spectacle when Hongisto arrived.

There were 10 cops surrounding and escorting Hongisto as he made his way to the microphone. And, his handlers encouraged Hongisto's supporters to further disrupt the hearing.

All in all, it took about 12 minutes before Hongisto said a word.

During that time, I wondered if the cops were there to protect Hongisto or us.

I wondered if the cops were

volunteering or were they being paid overtime.

I wondered how many of the people present ever volunteered their time to tutor kids.

I wondered why Hongisto didn't have to wait in line to testify like the rest of us.

I wondered why most of his supporters left when Hongisto did.

Mostly, I wondered what any of this had to do with Rodney King and building a better community.

Then I remembered, "take the focus of the problem," that is what I was taught in political consulting 101.

Actually, I believe that most people received their basic life training in the arcades. Yes, the arcades. Think about it for just a moment...

The house of mirrors, the place where nothing is as it appears. The shooting arcade, where sitting ducks get shot. The clown, whose head swells and eventually explodes as its mouth is shot with a water pistol. And, the pinball machine, which rewards the player who can ring the most bells.

And you thought the arcade was an escape to mindless fun.

The biggest lesson of all, however, comes from the addiction to the game. Immediate gratification for just a measly investment of money.

And, if you didn't like the game, you just played, you walked over to the next one without any penalty for giving up. Sounds like politics to me.

Hongisto, whether you support him or not, took the focus off the fact that people were denied access to the free press.

The theft of the *SF Bay Times* took the focus off the illegal arrests.

The illegal arrests took the focus off the LA riots.

The LA riots took the focus off the anger felt toward the cops who were found innocent of excess force and brutality against Rodney King.

And the verdict of King's abusers took the focus off the recession, the upcoming elections, and the fact that police brutality does happen and is racially biased.

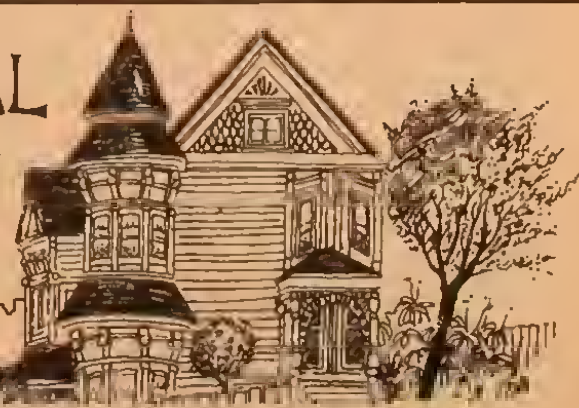
One can always change the subject or find blame in others, but the real responsibility lies with us.

I agree that voting may appear (especially in light of recent circumstances) to be one of the most meaningless acts of civic duty, but look at it this way...so are arcade games...and still you play. At least in the latest game played in San Francisco, we found out that the Police Commission is independent.

This government is your government either by choice or submission. So Do Something.

# ARCHITECTURAL ILLUSTRATION

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# MAJOR REHAB FOR BERNAL DWELLING



BERNAL HIGHRISE MAY BE SHORTENED

BY JOSEPH ENTEN

Residents of Bernal Dwellings, one of San Francisco's largest public housing complexes, are working with Mission neighborhood groups and the San Francisco Housing Authority to devise a comprehensive modernization plan which would employ Federal funds to renovate and revitalize the deteriorating development, located on the corner of Army and Folsom Streets.

Built in 1942, Bernal Dwellings bears testimony to the poor planning and lack of funding for maintenance and upgrading that plague many older publicly-owned low-income housing developments. The Dwellings, consisting of eight garden apartment buildings arrayed around a central eight story high rise, is home to approximately 200 households. Since its construction 50 years ago, the development has never been modernized.

The degeneration of the development is readily evident: swirls of graffiti cover the walls and corridors, broken windows dot the buildings. In addition to the physical dilapidation, the adjacent corner of 26th and Treat Streets has burgeoned into a center for illegal drug sales and other crimes.

The current conditions at the development are hazardous for both residents and neighbors. "You live at your own risk," notes one tenant. "If something happens, you make sure you're not around."

The residents of Bernal Dwellings are primarily young families who possess limited economic resources and lack necessary support services. "The majority of tenants are young people who have never owned a home. They're just getting started in life," notes Percy Coleman, the site manager at Bernal. Families residing in public housing earn \$9,000 per year on average and have no housing alternatives, according to Barbara Smith, the Housing Authority's Principle Administrative Planner.

In an effort to transform the development, the Housing Authority has formed a working group composed of urban planners and project residents to formulate a major rehabilitation strategy. "The tenants have had an enormous amount of input," asserts Coleman, who explains that the plan will incorporate a variety of "little things to change the way people live".

The plan is being developed in response to a \$16.8 million comprehensive rehabilitation grant awarded to the Housing Authority by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Currently, the Housing Authority receives approximately \$1.5 million each year in Community Development Block Grant Funds which are allocated by the City and serve as the Authority's main source of

revenue for management and maintenance of its numerous developments.

Although the Federal rehabilitation grant represents a significant increase in funding for renovations, the amount is only a drop in the bucket relative to the needs of the City's public housing stock. "The Housing Authority is responsible for roughly 6,700 units which have \$350 million worth of needs, many of which are emergency needs," Smith states.

Rather than dividing the HUD funds evenly among its properties, the Housing Authority will give larger shares of the money to the neediest projects, such as Bernal Dwellings.

"Bernal Dwellings is now one of our highest priorities," Smith comments. "We've performed renovation work on some of our other projects (Alemany, Rosa Parks, Robert B. Pitts) and now Bernal has moved to the front of the list."

In order to implement the HUD funds, the Housing Authority must formulate a master plan for the development in partnership with the residents. The plan aims to foster a renewed sense of pride and ownership among the residents and to provide tenants with the ability to control and safeguard their environment.

A number of fundamental structural alterations are being contemplated, including the externalization of the stairways, elimination of interior corridors and enclosure of the development by a wrought-iron fence with a key-carded security entrance. Elimination of the top floors of the high-rise is also being considered. The Housing Authority is hesitant to provide details of the improvements because the major points of the plan have not yet been finalized.

When completed, the plan will be used to attract additional financing. "The plan will be used as a financing tool," explains Victoria Vargas, an Associate Planner at the Housing Authority who has been working with tenants to devise the plan.

If the Bernal renovations proceed, the work will most likely be phased over a number of years to minimize the displacement of residents. Tenants in one building could be temporarily relocated to another part of the development while work on their building is completed.

The Housing Authority hopes to present a version of the master plan to residents and community groups at a formal meeting in early June, at a time and place to be announced.



## THEATER LIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the theatre company moved out, the City, in panic at having to operate a theatre out of the Mayor's office, let the much-improved building go back to its owner early and, instead, put a lien (and a padlock) on the lights, etc.

As of June 1, the place is gone, gone as a performing space. Watch for a sweatshop, or another wholesale showplace, opening soon in a (former) theatre near you.

### RHINO CANCELS

Down the street, Theatre Rhinoceros, devoted to plays with Gay/Lesbian themes, saw its single ticket sales drop from meagre to zero, and many of its subscribers turn into no-shows after what was perceived as a gay-bashing murder nearby. Three remaining mainstage shows in Rhino's season have been cancelled, while the company played a limited run of Doug Holsclaw's new AIDS farce "The Baddest of Boys" at Fort Mason. It got great reviews, but they can't bring it back to The Mission.

Rhino also has a City loan and a couple of years on its lease, though the Redstone Building, in which the company is housed, has gone through a couple of foreclosures in recent years and is currently for sale.

Blame for the drastic loss of business, besides the recession, rests squarely with the policies of the Police, according to Adele Prandini, a SF native who is Artistic Director of the company.

"I asked a police lieutenant why they can find time to bust prostitutes on Capp but can't stop the obvious drug dealings happening on the street and out of the hotels up and down the street," said Prandini, "and he answered: This is a training activity — we train rookies (out of Mission Station) in arresting hookers and this is a good place to do it."

To Prandini, and to other business people in the area, training rookies in providing basic safety and beat-walking would make more sense, "but they say they don't have the personnel to provide those services."

### HISTORIC VICTORIA THEATRE UNDER-USED

Ditto for the troubles of The Victoria, the neighborhood's oldest theatre building, across 16th Street. Owner Bob Correa observes "The City loaned us money and promised 16th Street and nearby would be spiffed up and become a major center for theatre and other nightlife." But then, Correa says, "they deliberately herded more hookers and dope dealers to these blocks. How do we tell people they'll be safe coming here and their cars will still be safe after the show. It's a lot safer than the media makes it sound, but it's not what we deserve."

There is a show, "Whatever Happened to B. B. Jane," running at The Victoria through June, but the place has been dark as often as not in the past year.

### AND AROUND AND AROUND...

Nearby Theatre of Yugen (Mariposa Street), Theatre Artaud (Florida near Mariposa), New Performance Gallery (17th near South Van Ness) and Intersection for the Arts (Valencia near 16th), all not-for-profit performing spaces who have fixed or are about to upgrade their buildings on borrowed funds, don't have the horror stories to match those of the Victoria, Rhino or Komotion, but all say they have been seriously hurt at the cash register by the image and reality of the neighborhood. So have the movie houses, from 16th to 22nd Streets and the Mission Cultural Center near 24th, say their staff.

Private night time and daytime businesses share the problem. Without the theatre crowds, according to an "Economic Impact of the Arts" study published by the SF Art Commission two years ago, restaurants and bars suffer or close. Two arts service organizations, Dance Bay Area and Theatre Bay Area, had their offices within a block of 16th and Mission a year ago, but both are now gone.

They told the News they had to move or lose their staff.

\*\*\*\*\*

Working with the theatres is the Arts Committee of the Mayor's Task Force on The Mission, a holdover from the previous administration. The Committee, headed by Frances Phillips of Intersection, one of the venues seriously affected by the 16th Street downturn, will meet Tuesday, June 9th, 6:30 PM on the second floor of 2868 Mission.

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# FROM WHERE I SIT

by Mayor Frank Jordan

"Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity." - Hippocrates' Precepts

Hippocrates died 400 B.C., but the wisdom of his words ring clear today. San Francisco's experience during the tumultuous aftermath of the Rodney King verdict pales in comparison with Los Angeles and other cities.

The riots and nationwide unrest are symptomatic of society's failure provide for the disenfranchised. The civil unrest shocked the world. It demanded us to seize the opportunity to reflect on root causes of the civil strife and to start a long healing process.

I was stunned by the jury's verdict in the Rodney King case. How that jury, faced with the blunt evidence of police brutality shown on video tapes, came to its decisions is beyond me.

But a mystifying jury decision is absolutely no justification for subsequent violence that has made victims of thousands of innocent residents in Los Angeles.

Despite the jury decision, and the resultant street violence, we cannot lessen our demands for proper law enforcement conduct.

As I watched the unfortunate events in Los Angeles, I was determined to take the necessary measures to ensure the

safety of our citizens.

San Franciscans were fortunate. We acted swiftly and decisively. As soon as I saw the situation deteriorate to the point of looting, criminal vandalism and endangering human lives, I imposed a state of emergency.

It was a difficult decision to make but it had to be done and it had to be done quick. So barely three hours since the first reports of violence, we took the necessary contingency steps to protect not only property, but human lives as well.

As the violence started in San Francisco, our Police Department, Fire Department, the Sheriff's Office and other emergency personnel reacted swiftly to bring the situation under control.

All of this though would not have been possible without the cooperation of San Franciscans and the professionalism of our Police, Sheriff and Fire Departments including DPW and other emergency personnel.

I thank all you have responded in the best interest of the City.

Every person who abided by our request to stay at home and avoid the City's trouble spots was part of the cooperative spirit that characterizes San Francisco. I know that in times of crisis, we respond as one unified community and one solid family.

Despite our effective response to curb

civil unrest, the City did have to pay a price. More than 90 businesses suffered losses exceeding \$2-million. Some businesses will be forced to close their doors forever.

The cost to the City's coffers is way over \$1-million in police and sheriffs' overtime, DPW crews and other essential services.

I will try my best to acquire state and federal money to assist affected businesses. I have already written Governor Wilson and President Bush and hope to get a reply soon. My administration is working closely with the Chief Administrative Officer to expedite the acquisition of these monies.

Some of the businesses that are located in San Francisco's newly designated Enterprise Zone will qualify for tax credits and low interest loans. This program is in place and those who qualify should apply for assistance as soon as possible.

The recent events in Los Angeles and San Francisco should be viewed as an opportunity to recognize the root cause of the ills that brought about this tragedy.

This tragedy was a result of a deteriorating social foundation which has millions without jobs, affordable housing and proper health care and with little hope of making a better life for themselves.

By understanding the root of the tragedy, we can, together, work for change.

We cannot as San Franciscans hope to be the problem solvers of society. However, we as San Franciscans can unite with other cities to advocate at the state and federal levels for a national commitment to rebuilding our social foundations. I am committed to this cause. We will stand with other cities and municipalities to bring back social justice to everybody in America, regardless of race, religion, politics or lifestyle.

I ask all of you, as San Franciscans to join me as we go through the difficulties in our own City to stand by each other. And as we prepare for tough budget cuts, we San Franciscans, in all our diversity, must come together as one family. We, as any family, have our squabbles and disagreements but in the final analysis, we all have to work together.



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# THE TRIBULATIONS OF CRAIG

## MISSION FILMMAKER KEEPS FAITH WITH THE WEIRD

by Katrina Huston

"We have met the alien and he is us, or some of us..."

**T**ribulation 99 is a film by Craig Baldwin, Mission District fixture, teacher and artist, about alien invasions in Central America. A tribulation is a great misery or distress or the cause of it. The word brings to mind acts of pure evil, the kinds of tortures and trials that saints and apostles endured. It refers to epic suffering of Biblical proportions.

Superficially, the story runs something like this: the planet Quetzalcoatl has exploded and aliens have arrived on earth. They are living in the earth's hollow center, underneath America. The aliens have duplicated themselves in human form and are creating all kinds of problems.

Unrelated and inexplicable events are attributed to the alien presence: bizarre CIA behavior in Central America, the magic bullet in the JFK assassination, the discovery of 40,000 human bodies dumped in Guatemalan volcano craters. No finger is actually pointed at anyone for these tribulations but, as the images roll by, a pattern begins to emerge.

All evil and strange happenings in Central America fit together to form a ridiculous (or not so ridiculous) conspiracy where the CIA, IT&T and other US interest in Central America may really be alien dupes enslaving the population, sucking dry vital resources and murdering all who might foil their plans.

The story is fractured. Sci-fi paranoia is mixed with Carmen Miranda Colonialist imagery, political conspiracy drama and occult phenomenology. The narration is dramatic hyperbole like the science fiction films Baldwin draws from.

The film's incessant layering of clip after clip after clip of vital and absurd events seems both silly and strangely on



The tribulated CRAIG BALDWIN

target. Sometimes the film plays like the Weekly World News and, sometimes, like a Leftist conspiracy expose.

The film has a political agenda: U.S. Government propaganda is used as a vehicle to reveal its own falsity and insidious nature. Anti-communist paranoia is the depicted reaction to U.S. destruction of Central American governments. 50s McCarthyist xenophobia is the reaction to alien invasion. These are our reactions to others threatening us.

The logic works nicely, now that tables have been turned and we are the usurping invader. In the film, the CIA, United Fruit and other U.S. commercial interests are the aliens manipulating Central American politics and intimidating the population. Recent U.S. activities in Central America are examined through review of contemporary U.S. cultural relics.

The movie has cult potential and this is its main failing. The information can only be absorbed by those who already know the history of U.S. involvements in

Central America and disapprove of these activities. It is unlikely that anyone who is uninitiated in avant garde politics and aesthetics will ever see this film, much less be enlightened by it. You have to know the players to absorb the meaning.

The film draws on an aesthetic of poverty. It is a found-object movie, formed entirely of clips appropriated from old films. The segments are mostly science fiction movies and documentaries from the 50's and 60's. It's a cheap way to create a new movie and gives the film a tacky nostalgia. The noise and clutter of Tribulation 99 has the trashy appeal of the Watts Towers or a bus totally resurfaced in graffiti.

The irreverence is both appealing and obnoxious. There is not a breath of silence nor a smooth transition to be found. Image after image after image claps by, creating an infestation of references. The visual and audio noise demand constant attention from the viewer. Voices and visuals from the past give the piece the appearance of substance and credibility through a connection with history. The montage style mimics documentary format.

Tribulation 99 was created in conjunction with Artists' Television Access at 992 Valencia Street at 21st. ATA provides a variety of services to new and aspiring video artists and offers the cheapest access to VHS editing equipment in the city (at \$6.00 an hour). ATA is an access in that it creates a forum for artists' interaction, use of equipment and exposure to new film and video through ongoing series presentations.

Also at ATA, Craig Baldwin curates "The Other Cinema" in which new, alternative and underground films are presented on Tuesdays in the Fall and Spring. Free films are shown every Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM and includes a film selected by the audience.

Mr. Baldwin's next film is "O No Coronado!"

PHOTO BY NAIIB JOE IAKINI

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# MAN OF IRON

## OLYMPIAN MARIO MARTINEZ IS BARCELONA BOUND

by Ted Manger

The sun shines bright here. This is the Mission district where the sun shines brightest in one of San Francisco's tougher neighborhoods. Walking down the streets that have become home to some, and a battleground to others, I reach the Sports Palace Gym at 828 Valencia. Here, Jim Schmitz, the owner and operator of the Sports Palace, sits behind a crowded desk overseeing the development of muscle, and of champions.

One of these champions is Mario Martinez. Although you are not likely to see him on a Wheaties box anytime soon, he is the Americas' best weightlifter, a man who has been setting American records for the past ten years and, at 34, hopes to return from his third Olympic games in Barcelona with a medal for the United States.

If that's not heroic enough, consider the unofficial title that coach Schmitz has given him, that of "the best working weightlifter in the world". Mario Martinez is the strongest man ever to work for Budget Rent-A-Car. Somehow, every week for the past ten years, he has found a way to work 40 hours at Budget in addition to his workouts.

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. This one may just be as big as they get. Mario is a super-heavyweight by class, and by anyone who has eyes. He weighs over 300 lbs. and stands over 6'2" tall. Like most people, he works for a living and spends time with his family, and then there is that other thing: Mario Martinez is a weightlifter. He is a weightlifter who has won 10 national championships in a row, a silver medal in the 1984 Olympics, and who has clean jerked 513 lbs. - the most weight lifted ever by anyone in the Western Hemisphere. Mario Martinez is a hero not only because of his titles and medals, but because he has managed to win them despite being a regular working man.

Today, Mario has taken a few minutes to talk to me between sets of "snatching" 330 pounds. There is the silence of determination in the heavy training room at the Sports Palace which is interrupted by the clanging of weights punishing the gym floor. Mario exhales deeply, his eyes focused somewhere beyond the gym, and then pushes the barbell above his head, holding it like a prize before dropping it



Mario Martinez working out at the Sports Palace.

PHOTO BY: FRANCES BARAJAS-LONA

casually back to the ground. Even for his immense size, Mario seems almost gentle. He moves slowly and speaks quietly, after all, when you're that big who needs to shout?

The past 24 hours have been a regular day for this regular guy. He tells me that he worked the graveyard shift at Budget last night (10 PM to 6 AM) to free up his afternoons for workouts and the visitation rights he has with his five year old daughter every other week. When I marvel at the sacrifices he makes for weightlifting, he shrugs it off with a shake of his huge shoulders. He has been weightlifting for 20 years now, and is comfortable with his two identities.

While largely ignored by public press and private sponsorship, he is used to the increased attention every four years, every Olympiad, for the past 12 years. For him, it is a life of cycles and routines, made worthwhile by the honor of

representing his country and the hopes of an Olympic medal. There is no bitterness in his eyes when he talks of competing against athletes from other countries whose only job is to lift weights, just determination.

Instead of begrudging the sacrifices he must make, Mario feels very fortunate to be where he is now. He feels fortunate to have his job at Budget, and to work out here in the Mission, close to his family. Mario is a champion who has known unemployment, divorce and a much tougher line of work as a Correctional Officer. The weights on the barbell must seem a little lighter to someone who has known the weight of the world.

At 34, Mario will be one of the oldest weightlifting competitors at Barcelona this summer, yet he has no plans to retire. He thanks God that he has been able to remain injury-free for so long, but longevity in athletics is due as

much to desire as it is to development.

Mario feels that weightlifting is 80% mental. Physical strength comes from the mental determination to attack the weights time and time again, and Mario Martinez appears as strong mentally as he is physically. With the increased attention given to drug testing in the sports world today, and with the decentralization of the perennial weightlifting powers from what was the Soviet Union, Mario is hopeful that the Olympic scales will be more balanced.

As long as his body will hold up, Mario will continue to compete with the same determination he has had for the past 20 years. If he can bring home another medal for the U.S. in Barcelona this summer for the Sports Palace, and for the Mission, he will be a hero. But he has already won his most inspirational title - the best working weightlifter in the world.



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## TIP TOP TAKES WOMEN'S, MEN'S TITLES

For years, the Mission has long been a hotbed for some of the City's sharpest pool shooters. This year appears to be no different as Tip Top Inn (Mission St. at 26th) took home top honors in both the Women's Thursday Night League and the Men's Thursday Open "D" in San Francisco Tavern Pool Association (SFTPA) competition.

The Tip Top Inn women breezed to a 9-1 first-place finish over North Beach rivals Gino and Carlo (8-2), Mission District neighbor Melba's Bar (Capp at 22nd Street) finished even at 5-5 as did Eagle's Drift In.

Team owners Ron Sansoc and Jim Susocoff fielded five fantastic femmes in Capt. Laura Gi, Grace Vasquez, LaVonne Zavala, Coca Jones and a red-hot-shooting-redhead named Charlie.

Gi, a Mission District resident and former SFTPA champ, previously played for local outfits like Brick House, Nap's No. 3, Tiffany's and Peacock Alley.

Her trick of pulling together the aforementioned all-stars can only be outdone by knocking in an eight-ball break.

"We've known each other for the past 20 years, but this is the first time we played on the same team together," said Gi.

While all of the Tip Top Inn women obviously know their way around a pool table, the Irish Ace was especially impressed with the style and class shown by Zavala.

Zavala had piloted several league champions since joining the SFTPA in 1975. She was part of the 20 Val dynasty that captured eight consecutive Wednesday night titles and also led division winners La Oficina, Donati (now known as The Connection) and Tiffany's.

The native San Franciscan related her rather inconspicuous initiation into the SFTPA.

"One night I was sitting in this bar called the 'Squeeze In' down in the Excelsior. One of their players was so drunk he couldn't stand up, let alone shoot. The other players on the team asked me to join, so I did," said Zavala.

As it turned out, she had one of those nights where she couldn't miss a shot. From what we saw on the Tip Top turf, little has changed in the past 17 years.

"Sure I used to shoot for money,"



PHOTO BY NAJIB JOE HAKIM

COCA JONES, with a 26 and 4 record, is regarded as the City's top woman player.

Zavala said with a sly wink and a smile. "Now I just shoot for fun."

As for the Men's Thursday Open "D" division, Tip Top Inn went wire-to-wire with an 8-2 mark, holding off late threats by Silhouettes (7-3) and Fat Ron's Saloon (6-4).

"We jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first half, then everybody started gunning for us," said Tip Top Team Capt. Jimi Caravello.

Fellow "F Troop" teammates include Ron Sansoc, Pete Garcia, Curtis Jackson, Mike De la Rosa and George Davenport.

With their recent victories over Route 101 and Silhouettes, the "F Troop" took

home their first team title since coming into the league in 1987.

## A TIP OF THE CAP

Congratulations to Mission High freshman pitcher Erika Ramirez and fellow frosh center fielder Monique Turner for being named to the All-City Girls' Softball Second Team.

Teammates Jamaica Watkins and Johna Velasquez also received honorable mention and helped lead the Bears to a fifth place finish with a 9-9 mark for Coach Jim Palmer.

## PAPA BEAR

While making our rounds, we caught Mission High Coach Ernest McNealy, the Bears' varsity basketball mentor for the

Through academic programs like Upward Bound, many former Mission hoopsters have gone on to successful college and professional careers as evidenced by at least 65 such players to date.

## A DAY AT THE RACES

Whether you're a long time railbird or a racetrack virgin, J. J. O'Connor Florists (Mission at 25th Street) would like you to join their group for a day at the races at Golden Gate Fields on Sunday, June 21st.

All the excitement associated with the Sport of Kings can be had for a reasonable fee of just \$10 per person. Ticket price includes lunch and clubhouse admission. For more info or tix, call (415) 826-2906 or (415) 647-7445.

## A NIGHT IN THE TURF CLUB

Comedian Tim Conway, Hall of Fame jockey Chris McCarron plus the local jockey colony will hold a benefit dinner and dance in the Golden Gate Fields Turf Club on Sunday, June 14th.

The theme of the evening is "Cruisin' Back to the '50's" and all proceeds will go to the Don MacBeth Memorial Fund, which aids disabled riders.

For more info, call Ladbroke Racing at (510) 559-7382.

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# Neighborhood BEAT

## GOOD NEIGHBOR MAKES GOOD WALL



Local developer Burt Hamrol was honored by Mayor Frank Jordan for his help in replacing a deteriorating fence separating Marshall Elementary School from the drug-infested Grand Southern Hotel on Mission near 14th.

Last September, Mission Police officers, building inspectors and other City agencies, community leaders and Marshall principal Dolores Nice teamed up to attack

a problem of drug deals, prostitution and violence adjacent to the school. A particular danger was potential contamination from infected hypodermic needles tossed into Marshall's playground.

Hamrol was honored for donating labor and materials to reinforce the fence. "In these times of increasing violence and uncertainty, school should be the safest place for young people," the Mayor said.

## "FEVER" AT THE JULIAN



A new production of "The Fever", Wallace Shawn's hard-hitting monologue about haves and have-nots in America and the world will be performed by Annie Long at the Julian Theatre in New College, 777 Valencia, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 PM, June 11th through July 4th.

"This thought-provoking, disturbing, highly literate monologue delivered with subtlety and care by Long," wrote Mari Keller of the Pacific Sun following its run in Mill Valley, "concerns the personal

crisis of the character — the Traveller — as she comes to grips with the vast differences between those who have money, power and the means to effect change and those who don't."

Additional material has been added for the new production, with additional direction by The Julian's artistic director, Richard Reineccius. Tickets are \$9 Thursdays, \$12 Fridays and Saturdays, call 626-8986 for reservations or discount information.

## MISSION LIBRARY GETS FUNDING BOOST

by Steve Pantos

The Mission Library was awarded \$696,579 in federal funds on May Day by the State Librarian. The funds are needed for San Francisco's \$1,794,564 renovation and expansion plans for the branch. The S.F. Library Commission had submitted a request for \$879,935.

According to Cy Silver, a State Librarian's Office facilities planner, the award to the City and another award to Kern County to rebuild an arson damaged library, exhausted all of the state's available funds.

Plans call for construction to begin in January, 1994 and for a branch reopening in February of 1995. A tax levied on San Francisco property owners was approved by the voters in 1988 to buy seismic strengthening, wheelchair access, electrical upgrading, energy conservation, abatement of any asbestos hazard, and other improvements for the City's branch libraries. The Mission Library is one of five branches selected for renovation.

The renovated branch will be able to offer patrons drinking fountains, public telephones, new lighting, more space for readers and materials, and a new public

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restroom for children.

The existing structure, built in 1915, will have 2,191 square feet added to it. As one of six Resource Branches of the S.F. Public Library, Mission needs to accommodate 22 computer terminals and 6 printers as part of a new on-line catalog system. The expansion will provide space for an elevator and create a separate room to be used as a computer lab. It will house 3 public access microcomputers and 3 printers.

This winter, the Library created an Advisory Committee of neighborhood residents to review the expansion/renovation plans after the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission, last Fall, recommended that a temporary branch site be established during the construction shutdown.

The Advisory Committee will be working with appointed and elected officials in order to find a suitable location and the wherewithal to accomplish the moves.

Supporting grant documents show Mission Library's aim to be the hub for library services to Spanish-speaking immigrants throughout the City; currently, 71% of the 44,000 neighborhood people served are minority, mostly Spanish-speaking, but with Asian and African-American people as well.

The library plans to expand and refine its services to the "new language groups" just as it did when it built a unique collection of materials, predominantly non-English, with Partnership for Change grant monies from 1989 to 1992.

## "FROM OUR SIDE" YOUTH PHOTO EXHIBIT



PHOTO BY AUDREY GARCIA

"FROM OUR SIDE", a documentary photo exhibit from San Francisco teens and pre-teens, many of whom have shot cover photographs for the New Mission News, will run from June 18th to July 15th at Muddy Waters Cafe, Valencia.

An opening reception will be held on June 18th from 6 to 8 PM. The show is an outgrowth of a youth photography program that includes the Mission and

Ernest Ingold Branches of the San Francisco Boys and Girls Club, the Columbia Park Boys Club and residents of Valencia Gardens Housing Project. Funding for this project has been provided by the Gap Foundation, the S.F. Foundation and Columbia Park Boys Club.

For more information, call 221-0790 or 861-2095.

## LOAFER LAUDED



PHOTO BY AMY SNYDER

Late returns from Easter Sunday's great meat loaf cook off in Dolores Park make Tony Wesslinger a clear winner with his killer Thai Meat Loaf.

Wesslinger won a Meat Loaf record album and a shirt that is obviously too

big for him. The contest, a SNIDE production, drew dozens of meat loaf merrymakers in this first annual event that is sure to become a Mission Tradition as the word goes out to loafers throughout the U.S.A.

## PICO SANCHEZ RETROSPECTIVE

by John Washbourne

In recent years, a circle of Mexican-born painters have made San Francisco's Mission district their home. Although their techniques and pallets differ greatly, these painters have

everyday life of communities, rather than the product of a small artistic elite. Put simply: in Mexico everyone produces art - though few would actually consider themselves artists.

Pico talks of the influence on his



SANCHEZ (CENTER) ENJOYS WEIRD SPORTS

certain influences and aims in common: they all draw on a tradition of Mexican folk art which dates back to Aztec times, they consider their self-imposed exile integral to their work, and they insist on showing their paintings in such everyday venues as Taquerias and coffee shops - even though most have had solo shows at major galleries both in Mexico and in the U.S.

One such painter is Pico Sanchez. Born in Mexico City, he attended the Academie de San Carlos for a year, then went to study with the abstract expressionist Frank Gonzales. While building a reputation in the Mexico City arts scene, he taught painting and introduced children to art with his TV show 'Pampapipiltzi'.

He married an American and moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin. There, he established an annual cultural exchange with Progreso, a city on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. After 13 years, he came to San Francisco where he is now President of Project Artaud. Through workshops in his studio, he continues to bring art to children - but insists that he has learned as much from them as he has taught them: "You can go to school for years and years and want to paint like the masters - but eventually you just want to paint like a kid again."

He has always been fascinated by Mexican popular art and loves what he calls its human quality: its simple and humorous depictions of everyday life. Though it often portrays death and the harshness of rural subsistence, it does so with bright colors, laughter and irony.

It is a tradition which, for many centuries, has been under threat - first from the Catholic church (whose imagery and iconography it eventually co-opted) and, most recently, from American pop culture. It has survived because it is a grassroots phenomenon, anchored in the

work of the "retablos", religious paintings in which the faithful portray the answering of their prayers, and of the "milagros", the little sculptures which people fashion and leave on altars which, he says, form an inventory of symbols ingrained in the Mexican subconscious.

His work also pays homage to the paintings of produce that adorn Mexican restaurants and grocer's shops: in fact, he has produced a whole series of paintings of watermelons. He sees in Mexican folk art a vision of the world that (like children's art) is unmediated by the conceits of the European high-art tradition, and he considers it his duty to bring it to a wider audience.

Although he has lived in the U.S. for more than 20 years, he insists that North American culture has not influenced his work directly. His first and most enduring impression of the U.S. was of the massive whiteness of the snow-covered Midwestern plains: a completely blank environment - he likens it to a sensory deprivation chamber - from which he could better appreciate the color and variety of his own tradition.

In keeping with this tradition of art as part of everyday life, Pico has a show this month - not at a downtown gallery - but at Pancho Villa's Taqueria on 16th Street. It will be a retrospective of his San Francisco work, representative samples from various series of paintings including "Moonfaces", "Dead Dogs", "Abstracts", "Plants" and "Watermelons". He intends to saturate the environment with color, covering the white walls with art from floor to ceiling.

The show is entitled "Gracias a La Vida", and is dedicated to his son, Hayyin, who will be visiting from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## COVER SHOOTER

Twelve year old Lorena Marquez is a member of the Mission Branch of the S.F. Boys and Girls Club. She enjoys playing a variety of sports, especially basketball, and enjoys camping.

The New Mission News cover images will regularly feature photographic work done by youth in the Mission as part of the youth photo program at the S.F. Boys and Girls Club, Mission Branch, and Columbia Park Boys Club.



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# JOSÉ DE JESÚS NOÉ, S.F.'s LAST MEXICAN ALCALDE

by Kate Elder

On the heels of controversy in California over omissions in its school's history books, Mae Silver has published a short volume which fills in a historical "hole" in San Francisco's background. Prompted by the lack of official written history on the period of Mexican rule in California, Silver has traced the life of Jose de Jesus Noe, the last Mexican Alcalde (mayor) of Yerba Buena (now San Francisco) and his times.

The era between which Mexico won California from Spain in 1826 and then lost it to the United States in 1846 is known as the Arcadian or Rancho Period. Vast, sprawling lands called ranchos were owned by the California descendants of the first Spanish families and the foreigners who married into these dynasties.

Noe arrived, from Mexico, in Yerba Buena towards the end of this era, and eventually owned Rancho San Miguel, an immense piece of land in the area known as "the Mission", beginning on San Jose Avenue and reaching out to the Pacific Ocean. He became one of the most powerful men in Yerba Buena, as mayor and landowner, until it became San Francisco in 1850.

The reason that there is little written on this exciting, peaceful period and its civic leaders such as Noe, Silver attributes to many layers of prejudice. Jose de Jesus Noe's Mexican heritage was an obstacle for him

even in the Rancho era, but became especially problematic during and after the United States won the Mexican/American War in 1848. Unfortunately, this prejudice lives on into 1992 - the majority of the official California history is American history, much that happened before 1848 is dismissed or omitted.

However, there is a positive legacy from Noe's time, a tradition that still exists today. One of the most interesting aspects that Silver reports of Rancho culture is the way Californians would resolve political controversies. If a governor (sent from Mexico) didn't meet their standards, a group of citizens would visit him and, over wine or dinner, amicably settle the issue, and the leader would depart.

Americans of the time viewed these non-violent "bloodless coups" with prejudiced eyes, saw them as cowardice and called them "comic operas". However, Silver believes that the fact that many modern American "peace movements" began in California is not without reason - the precedent was set in this state's "romantic era", the Rancho Period, with men such as Jose de Jesus Noe.

You can buy *The Last Mexican Alcalde of Yerba Buena: Jose de Jesus Noe* at Cover to Cover in Noe Valley, or by sending \$4.95 to 260 Corbett Avenue, San Francisco CA 94114. This small history is dedicated to all her "San Francisco neighbors who love the land they call home".



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# ROOM TO BEND AN ELBO

by Toni Logan

If you're interested in the evolution of Valencia Street and the surrounding neighborhood over the past few decades, one way to gauge it is to look at a short history of the Elbo Room at 647 Valencia (near 17th).

Circa 1938, it was a bar called Luke and Larry's that catered to the neighborhood's working class. Sometime later, a Mexican restaurant opened upstairs and, downstairs, a night spot with a drag show emphasis emerged, reflecting a new segment of the North Mission's population.

In 1978, entrepreneur Rikki Streicher bought the property and turned it into Amelia's, a popular lesbian bar and disco that reigned for 13 years. Amelia's clientele mirrored the increasingly female population of the neighborhood, but now that era has faded to make way for the current wave: Enter the Elbo Room.

Streicher and manager Dennis Ring remodeled the place to look like it did in 1938 when it operated as Luke and Larry's. Downstairs sports a cozy bar with plenty of barstools and tables designed for conversation; upstairs there is a smaller bar and stage for live entertainment, scheduled four nights weekly.

The Elbo Room's prices are in keeping with the neighborhood's low rents: Cover charges for entertainment range from \$3-6 and drinks are reasonable, too (\$2.50 well drinks, \$3 pints of beer, \$2.25- \$2.75 bottled beer and cheap pretzels).

Manager Dennis Ring says the Elbo Room will follow in the tradition of its forbearers by catering to the neighborhood. "We've got college students, the art scene, the working class, gays, straights, Blacks, whites, Latinos — it's truly a mixed bag," Ring and Streicher want the Elbo Room to be a place where this eclectic mix can come to drink, socialize and enjoy outstanding local entertainment. They



MILES MALONE plays upstairs at the "Elbo Room". Photo by Amy Snyder

chose to do very little promoting. "We've turned down more free publicity than most small businesses can afford to buy, mainly because we don't want the 'B & T' (bridge and tunnel) people coming over here," Streicher says.

"We got calls from Frisco and Focus (magazines) offering to do something about the Elbo Room's opening, but we turned them down," Ring adds, "because we don't want the weekend hipsters coming over from Fillmore Street and the Marina, either." We get the message.

Which is not to say that Streicher and

Ring couldn't turn the Elbo Room into a raging, Bay Area-wide success if they so desired. Both have extensive experience in the local bar and restaurant scene. Ring previously managed Julie's Supper Club and Miss Pearl's Jam House. Streicher opened Maude's in Cole Valley in 1963 (which, some say, was the first lesbian bar on the West Coast). She also owns Olive Oil's at Pier 50, which Ring and his wife manage.

The Elbo Room is open seven days a week. The entertainment schedule will generally feature country, blues and reggae

on Wednesdays; jazz on Thursdays (with India Cook and other big names appearing regularly); promoter Stephen Parr's "Show World" on Fridays (a mixed cabaret featuring female impersonators, the Spoken Word Savages, and more); and an eclectic mix of live bands on Saturdays.

But the most unique evening of entertainment at the Elbo Room promises to be promoter Stephen Parr's "Show World" on Fridays, a mixed cabaret featuring literary performers, torch singers, musicians, elements of drag, film projection and more.

"This is the only low priced cabaret in town," says Parr. "It's going to be multi-cultural, multi-gender, challenging and strong." Parr, who has 13 years of experience as an independent promoter in the City, wants "Show World" to take an innovative leap. "Live entertainment is the backbone of any kind of scene, really. Anything can happen when the entertainment has a powerful effect on the audience."

For more information about "Show World" events, call Stephen Parr Presents at 558-8112. For information about other Elbo Room entertainment, call 905-8847.

In addition to "Show World", Parr will arrange occasional special events at the Elbo Room, like the recent benefit for Kommotion-in-Exile (see last month's News). One of the things that makes a neighborhood interesting is its own talent," he says. "I'd like to increase awareness of local talent and give participation to people in the neighborhood."

Manager Dennis Ring continues on that theme. "We want to be a part of the neighborhood, and we're certainly open to suggestions," he says. "But we do want to keep a low profile."

So come on down and bring your neighbors, but tell your friends in the East Bay, Marin and on the Peninsula that the Elbo Room is a mere figment of their imaginations.

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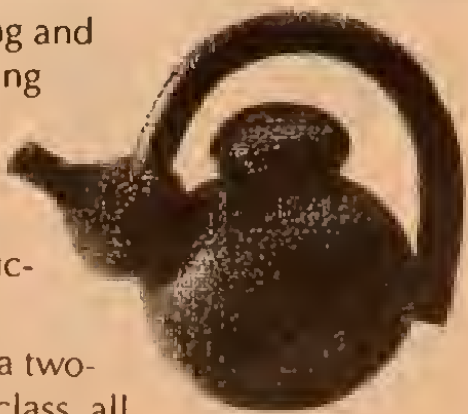
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# ESPERPENTO: AUTHENTIC SPANISH CUISINE

by Adrienne Brazelton

What comes to mind when you think of sunny Spain? Is it the intensely virile stories of Hemingway, the cubism of Picasso or, perhaps, the surrealism of Dali's art? Maybe you think of sultry señoritas with flashing fans or bullfighting fanatics yelling "Ole!"?

All of these images of Spain may be found sharing two walls at Esperpento, which opened in early April. The picture of Dali is eye-catching, as are the framed Spanish tarot cards. Embroidered satin shawls with long fringes and handpainted ceramic dishes adorn other walls; they are the final touch necessary to ensure that this new addition to the Mission restaurant scene is taken for a Spanish (not Mexican or Salvadoran or Nicaraguan) restaurant.

But it's only when you notice the poster of Pedro Almodóvar stuck upon the wall, high above the bar, that you really begin to wonder what Esperpento means. By projecting the image of this celebrated wacky film director, the restaurant seems to be making a statement beyond the obvious.

Hoping to find a clue as to the exact nature of this statement, I asked the waitress, Boline Strand, what "Esperpento" means. She said that owner Carlos Muela's wife, Matilde Gomez, told her that Esperpento "might be seen as a way of seeing life because we want everything to be perfect and sometimes we forget that something that's not perfect can still be beautiful - that it's charming in its own way."

Using tones of yellow ranging from creamy butter to dull gold, Esperpento's decor is, in itself, charming. The hungry customer is transported to a relaxed, bright

daydream complete with familiar faces (on the two walls) and traditional food, such as paella, a rice and seafood classic.

Made in the Valencian tradition (i.e. dry, non-sticky rice), paella is a mix of mussels, shrimp, oysters, calamari, peas and rice. Esperpento allows you to choose between an all-seafood paella or one that has both shellfish and meat (chicken and sausage). Because it is the house specialty, a large platter of paella - enough for leftovers - is offered at the relatively low price of \$20 per couple. If you love seafood, be sure to try this particularly Spanish dish.

Others will enjoy the nearly 40 tapas that are available at Esperpento. According to Ms. Strand, tapas are little appetizers or portions, served during the evening or afternoons, usually with wine and cheese. "Lots of people like to order a lot of them and sit and chat for hours," she said, "while they eat them and have a very cozy and nice time."

For prices ranging from \$2.00 - \$5.00 per tapa, these appetizers are authentically Spanish, as much so as Esperpento's owners. According to her husband, Mrs. Gomez taught the cook how to prepare the diverse menu, using her memory - rather than any cookbook - to guide her in cooking her favorite dishes. Mr. Muela said that Esperpento's style of food, which relies heavily on garlic and olive oil, is mainly from the central region of Spain, near Madrid, although it does draw from other areas as well.

If you like contrasts, you might try teaming up the cayenne and garlic sauce of the Catalonian papatas bravas (spicy potatoes) and the delicately flavored shrimp salad with vinaigrette. Or, if you are looking for something a bit more



PHOTO BY FRANCES BARBAS-LONA

ESPERPENTO has food to please all size palates.

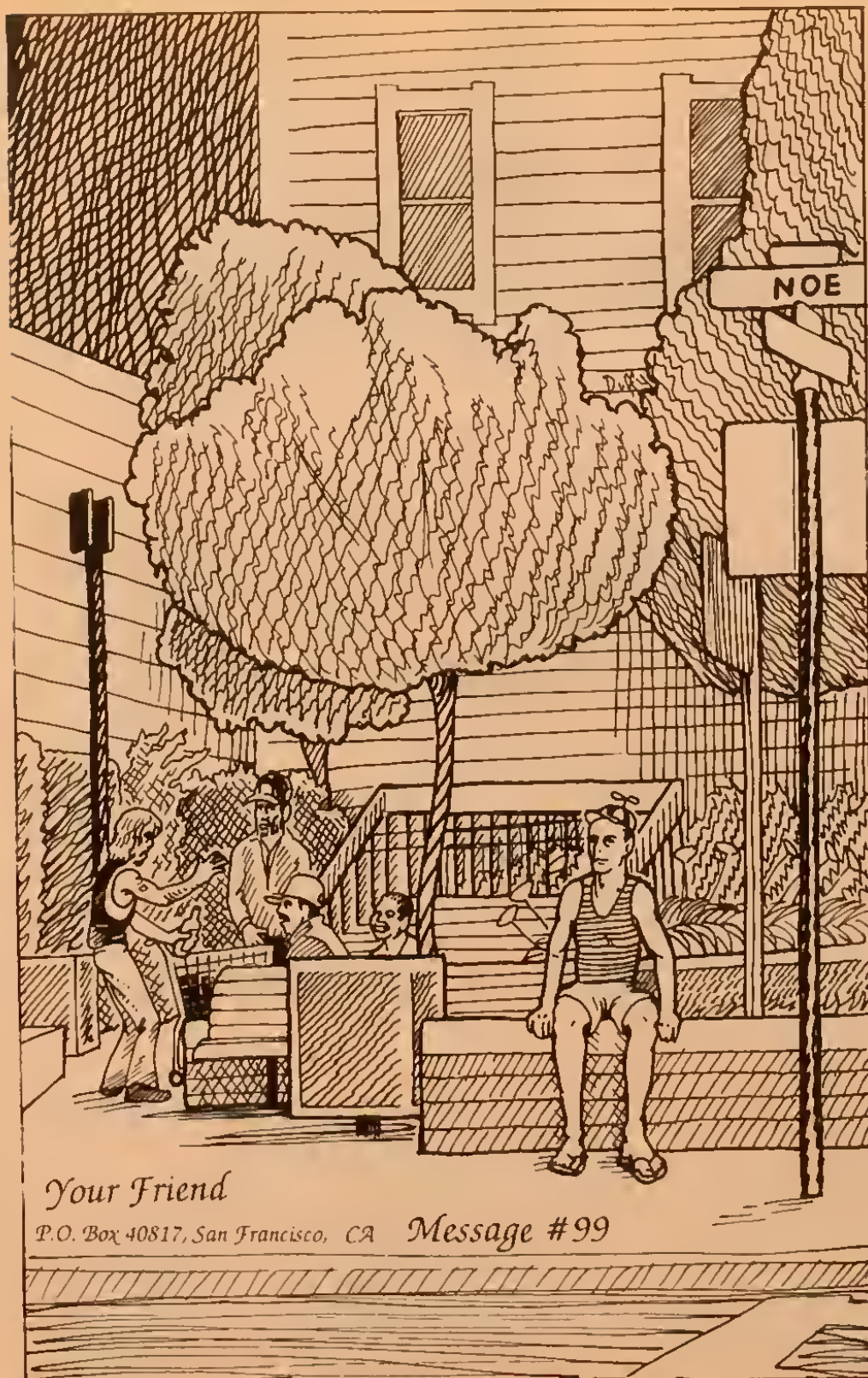
unusual, you might enjoy the mussel cream soup, which is wonderfully light and lemony.

If you are not sure which dishes go well together, let the cook decide for you by opting for the lunch (\$5.50) or dinner (\$6.50) combination platter. You choose from a list of five main dishes, such as "Milanesa" (beef cutlet) or cold marinated trout, and the cook will choose the

vegetable or side dish that best complements it. This element of surprise is characteristic of Esperpento, which uses old favorites to create an original taste experience at an affordable price.

\*\*\*\*\*

Esperpento is at 3295 22nd Street and is open from 11 AM to 3 PM and from 5 to 10PM, Monday - Saturday.



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## CHOICE

In the sixties, women were tireless advocates of many good causes such as the civil rights and peace. It dawned on us in the seventies that while we worked to liberate everyone else, we represented the largest oppressed group in the world. It was time to make some changes for us. We met with some considerable resistance.

We found ourselves ensnared with insidious contradictions. We were encouraged to fight for the liberation causes of many, but when we said to our "brothers": you make the coffee for a change, we found out women were the exception. We made the coffee, kept the office neat, made the phone calls, organized the demonstrations while the guys made the speeches.

Our "brothers" in the Left supported birth control and free sex until women started using the expression "freedom to choose". For the brothers this meant: what kind of birth control. For us it meant quality of relationship, when to be sexual and when not, as well as birth control for women and men. The "brothers" thought this was going way too far; for us we still hadn't gotten anywhere.

We moved against considerably entrenched social mores. In Massachusetts it was illegal to show a picture of a birth control pill, to discuss any kind of birth control or disseminate any information in any form. For this transgression against Puritanical social mores, a person could be sentenced to jail for up to five years. This was true until right before Roe v.

Wade changed everything. Or so we thought.

They came the eighties. Reagan, Bush, Schlafly, Quayle, Helms, Operation Rescue. Slowly and persistently, the gains won have been eroded: women on Medicare are denied access to abortion, government funded programs are banned from disseminating information; Quayle opposes both single motherhood and abortion (now there's a real Catch 22 dilemma). The nineties are the sixties upside down.

In 1970 emotions were running pretty high in the Women's Liberation Movement. We'd had many conferences, workshops, support groups on abortion and birth control. Things hadn't changed except our awareness which was now acute. We heard, too many to count, horror stories about agonizing deaths and mutilations of women by "doctors" doing back alley abortions, uteruses being shredded by an IUD called a coil, women's health being ruined by the toxicity of an ill advised birth control methods and a pervasive insensitivity to and suppression of a woman's choice about anything.

In 1972 the student union at the University of Massachusetts allowed various organizations to set up display tables. Birth control info tables were out, anti-birth control info tables were in (we are not just talking abortion here).

A couple of us passed by a table representing this irritating paradox. My friend from Alabama engaged in a discussion with one of the staff at the anti-birth control table. She'd had a painful, illegal abortion to terminate a pregnancy due to having been raped. At



some point the man made an untoward comment in response to her revealing she'd had an abortion; I think he may have called her a murderer. In a flash she was up, onto the table on her way over to get at the man; I grabbed her by the belt to stop her in midflight. I was saving her from jail, not him from death.

A few years back I found myself driving behind a car with two bumper stickers. One had the face of a Gerber type baby and an anti-abortion slogan. The other was a borderline obscene slogan regarding the brag that the driver of the car is a sex crazed fool and all women should swoon and submit for his gratification.

There are men who refuse to wear condoms, the simplest and safest form of birth control, because it allegedly reduces their pleasure. Women who have died

from bad abortions, women who have gotten cancer from birth control pills, whose quality of life has been diminished have had their pleasure reduced, too; along with dignity, choice, respect.

Women have a right to know all of our options, and to exercise free choice with full information. There must be sex education, free child care, birth control education and responsibility for men; a just social welfare program that provides support, quality health care, education, opportunity (working at McDonald's is not an opportunity).

Until then, no one should expect to show anti-abortion sex crazed fool stickers without some woman wanting to have a go at the offender. After then, there will be no need for any such bumper stickers because the perpetrators will be extinct and the cause defunct.

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# AIDS FRAUD

## MODERN SNAKE OIL PEDDLERS PREY ON FEAR

by Kate Elder

With the advent of the AIDS epidemic has come a new generation of "snake oil salesmen", con artists who perceive a gold mine of vulnerability in terminally ill patients. Any claim that a product cures AIDS is considered fraud. While some of these bogus products may be harmless, many are dangerous, and some treatments have led to death.

Overall, these scams in the treatment of AIDS and HIV are expensive... the California AIDS Fraud Task Force estimates 1.5 million dollars have been wasted on AIDS fraud annually in California alone. The lack of awareness of AIDS fraud, not only in the mainstream press and consumer fraud units, but also in AIDS organizations, may allow these scams to do more damage in the future.

AIDS fraud runs from outlandish, bizarre claims and treatments to the more mundane, but still potentially dangerous "cures". A Stephan J. Kurzwelt, M.D. in New York reports of an extraterrestrial scientist who can halt AIDS through a cryonic method in which the patient is frozen and then rapidly re-liquified. An advertisement titled "AIDS? DO NEVER DESPAIR!" has run in the Sentinel and San Francisco Bay Times for a substance called Teholain, which a company based in Switzerland claims will cure AIDS in a \$6,000, five day treatment.

Terrain Manufacturing in Tucson, Arizona reports of a possible cure for AIDS (and hangovers) - a herbal tea called the Wonder Herb that costs \$3,000 per gallon. A mysterious and expensive spa based in Singapore advertises a money back guarantee; if a patient infected with AIDS dies within two years after visiting "Yang's Treatment Centre", the next of kin will be refunded the fee.

The California AIDS Fraud Task Force has been created to combat this

rapidly increasing form of health fraud through education and enforcement by regulatory action. It is a combination of medical doctors, healing alternative organizations, the FDA and Attorney General offices through California. Mark Roh, chairman of the Task Force, and also an official at the Food and Drug Association, reports of entire industries springing up and then disappearing.

"AIDS health fraud is on the rise and we must stop the charlatans who seek to harm people and reap the financial reward from victims who are willing to try anything to alleviate the suffering from AIDS and HIV infection," says Roh. "Wise choices must be based on truth."

One success story for those fighting AIDS fraud began when a federal judge in San Francisco barred three companies from promoting Immune Plus, a produce advertised in the L.A. Times, San Francisco Chronicle and several other papers throughout the Bay Area. The companies based in Texas and Arizona had been selling what was little more than a multivitamin for \$300, claiming it would boost the immune system enough to cure AIDS. Despite increased action at the FDA and FTC, Mark Roh states "... the best defense against AIDS Fraud is an educated consumer."

Chris Savandol of the Santa Clara County Health Department, also a member of the Task Force, reports of fraudulent activities "practiced blatantly in the community", including four fundamental religious organizations, now under investigation, who claim that they can not only cure AIDS but also homosexuality. There are also medical doctors and nurses in Santa Clara County promoting peroxide injections, an unproven practice which might temporarily repress the virus on some level, and for which they charge exorbitant fees.

Stephan Pardi, also of the Task Force,



explains that not only do these con artists drain the limited financial resources of people with HIV or AIDS, they also give a false sense of security. Pardi says, "If someone takes a 'cure' for AIDS, whether it's a pill, or tea, or injection, it leads them to think they can continue to smoke, drink and not bother with taking proper care of their health and pursue medicines that have been researched."

Those quack cures are often couched in scientific or technical language, deceptive to those who don't have a scientific background and who want to believe that the jargon makes sense. The "science" will make sense up to a point, such as explaining how a multivitamin works, but then the leap the shysters make is to claim that the product is a miracle cure for AIDS.

Doctor Joseph F. Bannon of the Immunity Enhancement Research Institute explains "the American public has been conditioned to expect to take a pill and be finished with medical care... there will never be one miracle cure- but viable treatment for ADS is already here: a combination approach of medicines, lifestyle changes and positive thinking will allow AIDS to be treated as a chronic illness rather than a death sentence."

The AIDS Fraud Task Force carefully explains in their brochure that alternative therapies, products and treatments have

helped many people with HIV and AIDS. They are only concerned with the opportunists who make deceptive health claims.

Christopher at CURAS, an AIDS agency serving the Latino population, reports of black magic and occult practitioners in the Mission who tell people infected with HIV that they will be cured through "tarot cards, palm readings and chicken's feet". While there are many reports of "faith healing" having beneficial psychological effects, it can be very dangerous if other treatments are ignored.

Exploitation of people infected with HIV and AIDS, con artists taking advantage of desperate patients is a widespread problem in California. However, Juan Degalo of the Latino AIDS Project states that "the biggest problem in the community is denial". According to the Task Force, the best approach to combat AIDS fraud and avoid wasting time and money is through community support, education and knowledge of the services available.

The California AIDS Fraud Task Force is printing its next "AIDS Health Fraud ALERT", a helpful outline of how to identify AIDS fraud, in Spanish. Project Inform's hotline provides reliable information about AIDS treatments (1-800-334-7432).

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# EARTH SAVERS



## TIPS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

### JUST SAY NO TO JUNK MAIL

If you don't want it, and you won't read it, it's junk mail. Even if it is recyclable and you can put your un-opened junk mail in the paper bag for curbside pickup, junk mail is downright wasteful. The best thing to do is to stop it from showing up in your mailbox in the first place. Have a Junk Mail brunch. Invite your friends and family over for Sunday brunch and have a marathon writing session to free yourselves from junk mail. Here are some strategies:

#### • Direct Marketing Association (DMA)

Write to them and they will put your name on a "delete" file that goes out to all DMA members four times a year. To request a "Name Removal Card", write to Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, 11 West 42nd Street, P.O. Box 3861, New York, NY 10163; (212) 768-7277.

#### • Credit Bureaus

Credit bureaus sell your name and address to banks and credit card companies. To stop them, send a written request to be removed from each bureau's direct marketing file. Two of the largest credit bureaus are: (1) TRW-NCAC, attn: Mail Preference Service, Target Marketing

Services Division, 12606 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75243; (214) 235-1200, (2) Trans Union, Transmark, Inc., 555 W. Adams Street, Chicago, IL 60661; (312) 431-5101.

#### • Mailing List Brokers

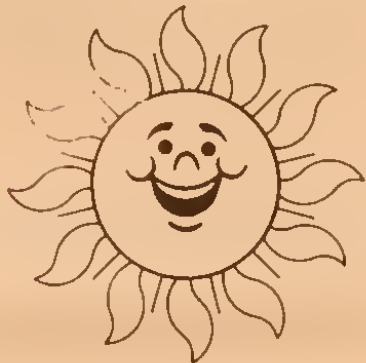
Mailing list brokers buy and sell names. The following are three of the biggest brokers. Write and ask to have your name placed on a suppress file.

R. L. Polk and Company, List Services Division, 6400 Monroe Blvd., Taylor, MI 48180; (800) 873-7655.

Donnelly Marketing, 1235 N. Avenue, Nevada, IA 50201-1419; (515) 382-8202.

MetroMail Corporation, 901 West Bond, Lincoln, NB 68521; (800) 426-8901.

Or • write to the junk mailer directly. Cut out the label and tell them to delete it from their mail list.



### Getting Rid of Used Batteries

75% of the batteries purchased in drug stores and super markets are alkaline batteries. They contain the active chemicals manganese and mercury as energy sources. Then the chemicals are drained, the batteries are useless and would have to be thrown away.

Once in a landfill, the heavy metals may leach into the soil and contaminate the groundwater. Unfortunately, San Francisco's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, located at 501 Tunnel Avenue, does not accept household batteries due to the difficulties in battery recycling. So, the only option available is to dispose of the batteries in your garbage. But you can help prevent leaching by placing them tightly in a plastic bag.

Better options include:

- Purchasing solar operated devices when possible. You won't need batteries in the first place.

- Using rechargeable nickel cadmium (Ni-Cad) batteries. Ni-Cads have the advantage over alkaline batteries in that they can be reused about 1,000 times. Keep a spare set of Ni-Cads on reserve ready for use, so that if the juices run out, you'll have the extra spare to kick in while you recharge the old ones.

- Using a solar recharger for your Ni-Cads. Real Good News Catalog carries them. Call them at 800-762-7325 for a catalog of solar and energy efficient products.

- Using low mercury content alkaline batteries. The most recent household batteries on the market contain only 0.025% mercury by weight. Check labels.

- Changing all the batteries in a device at the same time. A set of batteries will produce only as much power as the weakest battery will allow. In addition, the strong batteries will strain the weak ones, possibly causing them to leak.

If you have any questions on household batteries or are interested in learning how to properly dispose of other

hazardous waste and using non-toxic alternatives, please call the Hazardous Waste Hotline at (415) 554-4334

### Garbage-Free Summer Picnics

It's June

Bar-B-Qs and volleyball nets will soon fill Golden Gate Park, along with tons of paper plates, plastic forks, cans and bottles. But it need not be so.

I recently received an invitation for a Memorial Day picnic titled, "Join us for a fun and Environmentally Friendly Picnic". It stated that it was a BYOW - Bring Your Own Wares - reusable plate, cup, utensils and cloth napkin kind of picnic.

And why not? We bring our salads, our charcoals, our beers... why not our reusable wares?

Think about it.

### City to Buy Recycled Paper

A recent legislation passed by the Board of Supervisors will mandate the City's purchasing department to buy recycled paper if its cost does not exceed 120% of the cost of virgin paper.

If a virgin paper is being bidden to the City for \$100 and a recycled paper is bidden for \$120, the City will buy the recycled paper. This, in essence, is a 20% price preference for the recycled paper. At present, the cost of recycled letterhead paper is the same as that of virgin bond paper. Other papers, such as office writing paper, are 10% to 25% more expensive than virgin paper. The price preference will make recycled paper competitive with virgin paper.

The ordinance does require the City to purchase recycled products regardless of cost, such as bond paper for letterhead, re-refined motor oil, insulation materials and retread tires. It also would require city departments to reduce their paper waste by 10%.

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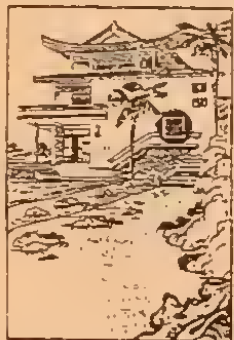
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THURSDAY, JUNE 4

**Festival From The Ruins** - a multi-venue exhibition of Czechoslovakian post-totalitarian art kicks off with a video screening at ATA. San Francisco and Mission artists have been engaged in an ongoing exchange with pre and post-revolutionary Czechoslovakia, a confused, exploited country which, needing a President, plucked an absurdist playwright out of jail (if Bush-Clinton-Perot depress you think Marlon Riggs, Mark Pauline, Jello Biafra, Diamanda Galas in command - issuing orders. Anyway, it's at 992 Valencia, 8 PM, \$4, 824-3890.

**Love(sic)** - Art of the matter dance at Studio 210, 3435 Army near Mission. 8 PM (through 7h), \$8-10, 985-7404.

**Pacific Ocean** - reading with Sara Levi Calderon at Modern Times' new location, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, \$3-5, 282-9246.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

**Mothersongs** - a dance in the 500th year after Columbus' arrival to commemorate the rich heritage we have received from both Native Americans and immigrants, rendered in dances to folk songs in the Yiddish language by the Ruth Botchan Dance Company at Footwork, 3221 22nd near Mission. 8:30 PM, also 6th, \$10, 824-5044.

**Totem** - dance and projected images inspired by the mystical landscape and indigenous Native American culture of the Olympic Peninsula and by the recent death of choreographer Kate Foley's Croatian grandmother at New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street. 8:30 PM, also 6th and 7th, \$10-12, 863-9834. (Botchan and Foley ought to take their troupes out to the street and showdown at Mission and 19th, no?)

**Festival From the Ruins** continues with a visual arts reception at Southern Exposure Gallery, 401 Alabama at 17th. Czech it out, beginning 6 PM, 863-2141. Also, the internationally renowned Cerna-Vanek Troupe perform "Little Blue Nothing" and other dances at 1800 Square Feet, 719 Clementina, 9 PM, \$5-10, 255-8510.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

**Sunset Brass** - works by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Puccini, Gabrieli, Bach and others played loudly but well at Golden Gate Lutheran Church, 601 Dolores. 7:30 PM, \$5, 824-5890.

**Ruins, continued...** - government disapproved films at the Roxie at noon, dance workshop with Prague gymnastics at 1800 Square Feet, 1 PM and too many crazy Eastern European bands at the Paradise Lounge at 8 PM (1501 Folsom, 861-6909).

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

**ACHE: A Journal for Lesbians of African Descent** - editor in chief Natalie Devora and others at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 6 PM, \$4-7, 282-9246.

MONDAY, JUNE 8

**Monday Night Marsh** - the Marsh has moved from Cafe Beano to its own space in the former Modern Times storefront at 968 Valencia. Mondays in June, rotating presentations by four performers/groups will tackle Holey Matrimony, Van Gogh's Ear, Overcoming Tweed and other useful topics. 8:30 PM

(also 15th, 22nd, 29th), \$5, 641-0235 for performer info.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

**Erotic Writing Class** - Petronius did it. So did Henry Miller, Anais Nin and Raoul Duke. (A few NMN columnists tried to do it and that's why you don't see them around anymore.) You too can find yourself as a creator of sexually explicit work after taking this class with Pat Califia, author of "Macho Sluts" at Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia. Two classes 7:30 (also 16th), \$40, phone 550-7399 for registration information.

**Invisibility Blues** - Michele Wallace reads essays to deconstruct demeaning stereotypes of black women at Intersection, 446 Valencia. With Raymond Federman who draws on his experience as a Nazi concentration camp survivor. 8 PM, \$2-4, 626-2787.

**deFORMATION transFORMATION** - artist walkthrough of a mixed media exhibition curated by Michael S. Bell. Much rice and crippling of women in this exploration of the personal histories of Flo Wong and Hilda Shum at the Capp Street Project, 270 14th Street. Walkthrough is at 7 pm, free, exhibition continues through 27th (626-7747).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

**Wildcat Words** - a forum on labor-related issues with Nellie Wong ("The Death of Long Steam Lady"), David West ("Evil Spirits and Their Secretaries") IWW singers, a Chronicle reporter and more at Modern Times, 888 Valencia 7:30 PM, \$3-8, 282-9246.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

**Connections** - Anne Bluthenthal's world premiere at Theater Artaud which "makes it apparent that all things are linked and separateness is just an illusion". Through 14th, 450 Florida, \$10-12, 621-7797.

**Ceremonies** - Essex Hemphill, black gay cultural activist and poet reads at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, free, 282-9246.

**Black Candle** - poems about women from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh read by Chita Divakaruni at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

**Local 7** - a showcase for artists in dance and new performance at Footwork, 3221 22nd Street. 8:30 PM (also 13th), \$7, 824-5044.

**Three Nights Only** - watch some of the Bay Area's hottest local performers sing, dance, act, talk and deconstruct through 14th at Intersection, 446 Valencia. Call 626-ARTS for schedule.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

**A Farewell to Ruins** - a farewell performance and feast by the Festival from the Ruins group at Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. \$3-8, all day, 863-2141.

**And a Hello to Mayor Jordan** - Dolores Park neighbors welcome Ilizoneci to kick off a crusade to drive drug dealers out of the park and post "Drug Free Zone" signs. Golden Gate Lutheran Church, 19th and Dolores, 2 PM, 647-5050.



## SUNDAY, JUNE 14

**Free Music Matinees** - with a can of food to benefit the homeless at Club Chameleon, 4:30 PM. This afternoon, PUNG and ALEX. 853 Valencia, 821-1891.

**Kyogen for Kids** - two traditional Japanese comedies for kids presented by the Theatre of Yugen at Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa at Alabama. 3 PM, \$5, 621-0507.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

**Sol Uhuru's Art Shack** - Viacom 25's public access show of the month, 5:30 PM.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 19

**Looking for Kansas** - Lavender Godzilla and the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance hunt down Dorothy in her lair at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, \$4-8, 282-9246.

**The Gospel According to Wayne** - follows Wayne Corbitt's escape from the Indiana State Mental Hospital to three years of excellent adventures in San Francisco ("drugs, sex and sleaze with no apologies") until the onslaught of AIDS. Party on, Garth... Not! 8 PM, also 20th, 26th and 27th at the Marsh, 968 Valencia. \$10, 641-0235.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 20

**Transforming Rage into Political Action** - discussion on the King verdict and response sponsored by the Freedom Socialist Party and Radical Women. 6:30 PM, 523-A Valencia Street, donation requested (864-1278).

## SUNDAY, JUNE 21

**Tribute to Malcolm X** - poetry with Q. R. Hand, John Ross, Alfonso Texidor and more, musicians Lewis Jordan and the Brown Fellinis at Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 5 PM, 821-1155.

## MONDAY, JUNE 22

**Beat Yourself Up** - Kerouac contemporary ruth weiss and bass player Doug O'Connor jazz it up at the 3300 Club, 29th and Mission beginning 7 PM. Free, 824-0835.

**The Sparkling Lavender Dust of Lust** - lesbian erotica with Tee Corinne, Chca Villanueva, others at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, \$3-5, 282-9246.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 23

**Takin' Back the Streets** - a self defense workshop with the San Francisco Street Patrol and Radical Women at 523-A Valencia. 6:45, \$5 (includes dinner), 864-1278.

**Another Tee** - Corinne, that is, moving two blocks up to Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia as part of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Pride Week. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

**Berlin Angels** - opening night gala for the Shanti Project at Theater Artaud, 500 Florida. 8:30 PM (through 27th), \$14-16, 621-7797.

**Voices From a Queer Planet** - see Julie Dorf attempt to "moderate" a panel of queer activists from around the world at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM \$3-7, 282-9246.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 25

**Good Sex** - Julia Hutton reads and the folks at Good Vibrations party, 7:30 PM, 550-7399. Free, 550-7399.

**Bad Sex** - contributors to "Sexual Harassment: Women Speak Out" read and

discuss at Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia. 8 PM, \$3-10, 821-4675.

**Spooky Sex** - editors Roxxie of "Girljock" and Mark Pritchard of "Frighten the Horses" promise "readings, refreshments and major dish" at the pre-parade party at Modern Times, 888 Valencia. 7:30 PM, \$2-4, 282-9246.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 26

**Independent Light** - a three night series of installations and performances at 275 Capp. 7 PM (also 27th & 28th), \$3-5, call 558-8129 for program info.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 30

**Bachtrian Cinema** - Mission Library presents "Frog Went a Courtin'", "Frog and Toad Together" and "Elephants" for kids 3-5 at 10 and 11:30 AM. 24th between Mission and Valencia.

**A Modicum Off Kilter** - performances and readings from the pages of June, a publication of performance-oriented writing by women at the Marsh 968 Valencia. 8PM, \$6, 641-0235.

## ONGOING:

**Galleries:** - Walking tours of Mission murals begin at 348 Precita Saturdays at 1:30 PM \$1-3, 285-2287. Mel Chin's "Gallery" at Capp Street Project through 27th. 270 14th Street, 626-7747.

**MONDAYS** - thrash-trash poetry at Club Chameleon (853 Valencia, 821-1891).

**TUESDAYS** - "blabbermouth night" at Club Cafe, Dave Whitaker M.C. invites... beatniks, hippies, poets, punks and ???, 8 PM (920 Valencia, 821-7112).

**WEDNESDAYS** - open mike nite at Club Cafe, see above for the particulars.

**THURSDAYS** - readings at Cafe Babar (992 Guerrero, 282-6789).

**FRIDAYS** - Spoken Word Savages now at Elbo Room, 647 Valencia, 9 PM, 558-8112.

**SATURDAYS** - Children's stories at Mission Library... Baby/toddler lapsits to 3 yrs old 11 AM, Spanish language story time at noon for younger kids. Free afternoon poetry at the Welcome Mat, 1-3 PM, (807 Valencia, 647-3663).

**SUNDAYS** - Poetry Above Paradise, 301 Folsom at 11th, 8 PM, sometimes free, sometimes not. 861-6906.

## Songs:

Saturday night's alright for fighting - but, in the Mission, better for music. Jazz vocalists Miyoko and Sherri Roberts at Blondies, 540 Valencia, 9 PM, Free! Bob and Hank's "Moon in June" at the Marsh, 968 Valencia... "caustic chantys, saccharine serenades and alarming ariosos". 10:30 PM, \$6, 641-0235.

## Pictures:

"Marquis" is a little film from France in which deSade, played by a dog imprisoned for defecating on a crucifix, philosophizes with his penis, as well as other inmates played by a pig and a S&M horse/rooster duo. At Epicenter, right? Or A.T.A.? The Regal Show World? Wrong! At the Castro with its big organ, 12th to 18th. Pick up a calendar or call 621-6120. It's followed by the 16th San Francisco "Lesbian and Gay Film Festival" through 28th with additional screenings at the Roxie (863-1087).

## Education:

Summer activities for students sponsored through the City's Recreation and Park Department include bodybuilding, cooking, DJ training, career counseling and the arts. For information, call Rec/Park at 666-7200 and ask them to send you the "Comprehensive Plan for Summer Activities" which also reports on conditions in Mission District parks and playgrounds.

## Sports:

information on Mission Youth Soccer, call Felipe Magalheas at 668-0565 or Juan Gonzalez at 878-1170.

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# THE RED MAN

by Al Rose

They hit him with a stun-gun. They threw him out of the cafe hundreds of times. And yet - the Red Man, he keeps coming back. I have a right to be here, the Red Man yells. This is America. I am an American. You can't just throw me out. And the manager of the cafe does just that: he throws the Red Man out.

For today he is gone — but — tomorrow, the Red Man will return and once again, someone will throw him back to the outside world, the street world where the street people greet each other with institutionalized smiles and screams of "helllos" that can be heard from a block away. I walk up to the Red Man, and I ask him. How are you? Awful.

He tells me, in a tone of voice that sounds as if he is a man about to take that short walk to the gas chamber. I am one of the world's greatest artists. My work is monumental. My art will live throughout the ages — my art will stand the test of time.

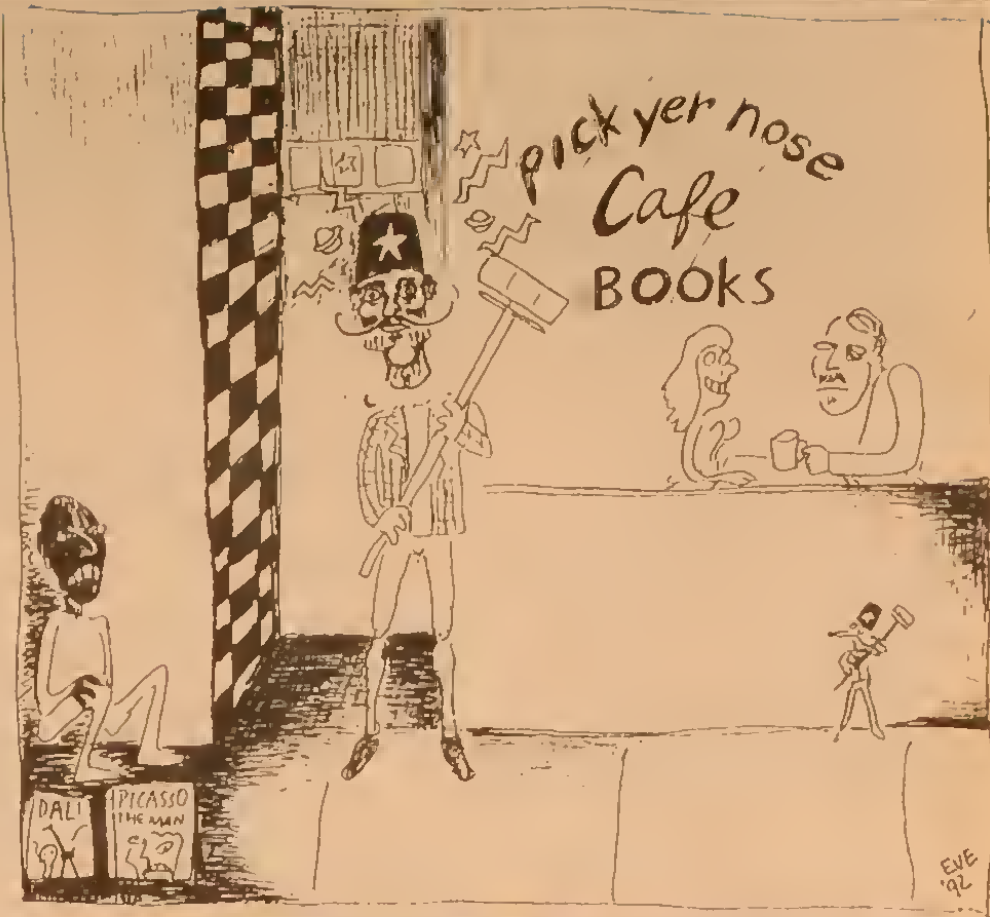
(The Red Man makes doodle-like drawings on napkins, most of which are gathered up by busboys and flushed down the toilet: the Red Man's works of art are floating somewhere between the California coast and China.) How can the world treat a great artist like this? he asks me.

They keep beating me up — hurting me... being unkind to me. What is a Red Man to do?

I tell him if all the world was painted red, like him, then he could simply just disappear. In an all red world, no one would be able to see the Red Man. He tells me that THAT is a great idea. A real great idea. And — he is going to start on this world-painting - everything red - project today. He will begin to paint everything he sees red. Bright red.

The last time I walked around the Mission, everything looked as it has always looked. No red paint anywhere. And — there was no Red Man to be found. It is true: the Red Man has disappeared from view for a while: he disappeared into a place where all the Red Men look up and stare for days at the blueness of a blue, blue sky — then the days disappear into years and years, and yet - still more years. And soon thereafter, all the world's colors just blur together — all the Red Men of the world just become memories: something that no one no longer wants to talk about.

And no one ever asks  
"where have all the Red Men gone?"  
They know.



## Photography

Fiestas de Quinceañera. Other Occasions.  
Family Portraits. Couples. Children.

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## SAN FRANCISCO FREE EATS CHART MAY 1 - JUNE 30, 1992

NAME, LOCATION, PHONE NUMBER	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1350 Waller St. (near Masonic) 641-1122	Bag lunch 12:30-12:45pm						Brunch 10:30-11:00am	
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH U.N. Plaza in front of old Federal Building (50 Hyde St.) 863-3382							Dinner every second Saturday of the month 4:30-5:00pm	Soup, bread and fruit.
FOOD NOT BOMBS Golden Gate Park (by Haight & Stanyan), Civic Center Plaza (Polk St. between Grove & McAllister), California & Kearny 330-5030	6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	12:00-1:30pm 6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza 12-2pm G.G. Park	12:00-1:30pm 6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	11:30-1:00pm Cal. & Kearny 6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	12:00-1:30pm 6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	12:00-1:30pm 6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	VEGETARIAN. Hearty soup & bread. Often free loaves of bread available.
GLIDE MEMORIAL CHURCH 330 Ellis St. (at Taylor) 441-6501 (office), 771-2722 (crisis line)	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm 4:00-5:30pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	Sandwich & chips to go provided after lunch Sunday & Saturday only for those who are eligible.
HAIGHT-ASHBURY FOOD PROGRAM 1525 Waller St. (near Belvedere) 566-0366			Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm		VEGETARIAN alternative; volunteers welcome at 8:00am. Parents with kids eat at 11:30am.
HOSPITALITY HOUSE YOUTH CENTER 146 Leavenworth St. (near Turk) 776-2102		Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm		Only for youths under 20. Sandwich, juice & fruit.
MARTIN DE PORRES 225 Potrero Ave. (near 16th St.) 552-0240	Brunch 9:00-10:30am	6:00-7:30am	6:00-7:30am 9:00am-2:00 pm Snack, Medical van 12:00-1:30pm	Lunch 12:00-3:00pm	6:00-7:30am 12:00-3:00pm	6:00-7:30am 12:00-3:00pm	Lunch 12:00-3:00pm	VEGETARIAN alternative Wed. & Fri. Breakfast; oatmeal & herb tea. Lunch: a hearty soup, except for Tuesday's snack (usually broth & bread).
MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY 1330 4th St. (at 3rd St.) 821-9687	Dinner 4:45-6:00pm	Dinner 4:45-6:00pm	Dinner 4:45-6:00pm	Dinner 4:45-6:00pm	Dinner 4:45-6:00pm	Dinner 4:45-6:00pm	Dinner 4:45-6:00pm	Short prayer before meals; Mass on special occasions. Soup & sandwiches.
NEIGHBORHOOD BAPTIST CHURCH 608 Hayes St. (near Laguna) 621-8748							Lunch every fourth Sat. 12:00-2:00pm	
NINETEENTH AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH U.N. Plaza in front of old Federal Building (50 Hyde St.) 564-7721							Dinner every fourth Saturday 4:30-5:00pm	Soup, bread & fruit.
PRIMERA IGLESIA BAPTISTA DEL SUR 976 South Van Ness Ave. (near 21st St.) 647-1000	Breakfast every first Sunday 8:00-9:00am							A full breakfast.
ST. ANTHONY'S DINING ROOM 45 Jones St. (near Golden Gate) 241-2600	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Showers, laundry, haircuts & other services available. Call 241-2688.
ST. JOHN'S AFRICAN ORTHODOX (ONE MIND TEMPLE) 351 Divisadero St. (near Oak) 621-4054	Lunch 3:30-4:30pm	Lunch 2:30-3:30pm		Lunch 12:00-2:00pm				VEGETARIAN. Sun. & Mon.: Beans, rice, vegetables, salad, fruit, & bread. Wed.: Noodle soup & bread.
ST. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH 666 Filbert St. (Washington Square) 421-0809	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	4:00-5:00pm	A simple sandwich for people of North Beach
THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH 1399 McAllister St. (near Pierce) 923-0259					Lunch 12:30-1:30pm			Meat entree, vegetables, salad & dessert.
TRUE HOPE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST 950 Gilman Ave. (near Griffith) 822-5626			Lunch 12:00-1:00pm					Guests asked to attend sermon 12:00-12:45; meal at 12:50. Meal, vegetables, bread & dessert.
UNITED COUNCIL OF HUMAN SERVICES At Hospitality House, 146 Leavenworth (near Turk) 822-5067							Dinner 4:00pm until food runs out	Meat entree with vegetables.

We'd like your corrections, comments, or additions for our next bimonthly update. Please call 648-3222.  
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# HARD BOILED DEADBEAT

by Frank Deadbeat

It started as a small red dot on his cheek, "Don't fiddle with it," said his girlfriend, so he lit a cigarette instead. "Well if you want me to," she said, "I'll pop it for you", pulling a needle from the portable sewing kit in her purse but he said "no", remembering how mother in her vanity used to love to pop the pimples on his face, jabbing a needle in and squeezing till the blood ran mixed with yellow pus ("HOLD STILL!")... "I'm sure it'll go away by itself," he said, "the movie starts in half an hour you'd better get ready." When she'd put her makeup on she called him to the bathroom, pointed to the mirror "What a handsome face you have" and daubed some makeup on the offending blemish, "now we can go."

Next day arriving for work at the restaurant he was stopped by the maitre d's hand on his sleeve, "Robert dear what is that thing on your face?" He shrugged, not feeling what others saw so plainly, "a pimple I guess." "Well Robert it is rather unappetizing." He shrugged again and went to change into his waiters' uniform... by the end of the shift the maitre d' cornered him again, "I swear to God, Robert, I think it's gotten bigger! Promise me you'll do something about it before Wednesday."

On the bus he forgot all about it even though people were sneaking glances at him, people were always sneaking glances at his handsome face. He opened up a newspaper he'd found beside the seat; looked forward to his evening. It was Sunday night (his Friday) and Lisa had a previous commitment, he had the whole night to himself. Having eaten at the restaurant, he skipped dinner, instead rented a foreign "art" video and fell asleep in front of the TV, himself in hand.

The doorbell woke him. Groggy, morning-stiff, he peered with one bleary eye through the peephole. It was Lisa. They had plans to take a ferry ride to



Sausalito today. He opened the door, ready for a smile and a hug; was genuinely nonplussed by the little shriek she gave as she stepped back from, "Oh, Robert, how could you!" When he reached his hand out to her she burst into tears and ran for the elevator, taking comical little steps in her high heels... his hand went to the side of his face, "My God!" he whispered to the perfumed air. Back in his room, looking in the mirror at his own expression of self-disgust, he saw the pimple had grown into an actual boil, a blood-red carbuncle big as a shiny half

dollar!

Shortly after this the pain started, like a toothache. No mere aggravation of the skin but a long sharp pain as if a needle underneath the boil were stabbing straight into his brain. The pain came and went; when it came he whimpered, couldn't see, couldn't eat or sit up... no matter. It was almost worth it just to have the weekend to himself, away from everyone's demands; no hungry eyes and mouths to feed. Lisa was a nice girl, but...

By Tuesday (his Sunday) he was in delirium. Wednesday, the alarm clock pulled him up too fast from amniotic oceans teeming with dark dreams, no time to wash or shave he jumped into his clothes still half asleep he rode the bus to work... The maitre d' stood purse-mouthed barring his way, "Oh Robert, no! No! No! No! No! No!"

At first he fought dismissal, then they showed him a mirror. It looked like a bull's testicle was growing out of his face. The management felt sorry for him, gave him a handsome severance check and told him to return when he was "feeling better".

Now the people on the bus stared openly. A little girl called him "tomato head". He squirmed in his seat wishing he had a newspaper to hide behind; on reaching his stop he scurried to regain his private lair (though to say he was like an animal in this respect would be unfair, since animals are innocent of themselves).

Days blended into one another in his room. He'd cashed his check with the gawking landlady and paid her son to go to the liquor store for him. Drinking seemed to ease the pain but it increased delirium. Of course it never occurred to him to visit a doctor; that would mean abdicating his room. Conceivably, at some point, he would have to venture out; for this eventuality he cut an eyehole in a pillowcase to war as a mask (just one eyehole since his left eye had swollen shut)... He now believed that to recapitulate the Elephant Man was indeed a small price to pay for his privacy, aloofness from the hungry crowd... he needed time to think.

In more lucid moments he forced himself to stare into the mirror. Gradually his entire head had been engulfed by the carbuncle, his face utterly consumed by it save for his right eye and the corner of his mouth. He looked like an enormous purple eggplant or a cephalopod; big swollen sac pulsating with a strange life of its own, his skin stretched so tight over that mysterious fluid as to become a translucent membrane. Things were moving, floating, spiralling around in there, weird swirls of color, black and red and purple things, slow dark dreams, like jellyfish and sea anemones, waving fronds and undulating lace-like tissues of the drowned...

Ah, he thought, if only I were an artist, then all this could be justified. And following that train of thought brought matters to a head. He put his hands on either side of his head and squeezed. It wasn't easy; pain made his eye water. He squeezed and squeezed, dreaming of becoming a great artist, the pain crying to mother till the membrane straining to the limit burst with sounds of viscous flatulence; a stench of rotting ocean life, a technicolor torrent shot straight up — it knocked him back onto the floor, onto his back, and looking up at the ceiling made him weep to see the liquid colors moving, blending, separating into figures on the Sistine ceiling; there above him, on the Sistine Chapel ceiling, God and Adam pointing at each other, mutually accusing; both blunt fingers swollen purple with the guilt and promise of creation.



## FOOD TO GO

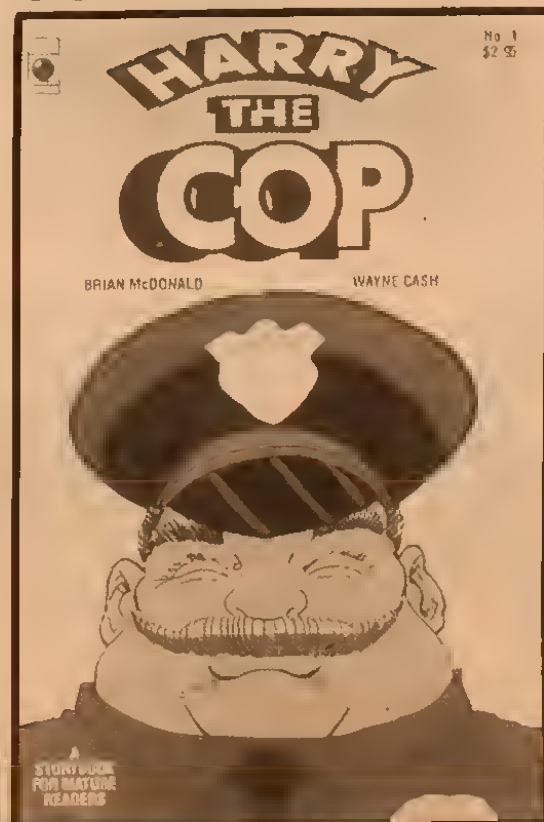
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